50¢

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Fishing Magazine in the United States!

JUNE 29th, 1978 ★ Volume 13, Number 26 ★ *13th Year of Publishing* ★ FIFTY-CENTS

26" Bass Bill Passes Senate!

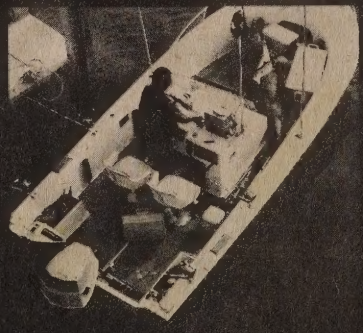
Goes to Governor Carey for Signature—See news report in "Pass-It-On" Department

Why Mako Holds Fishing Tournaments

There is no better way to test fishing boats than under actual fishing conditions. Mako has held tournaments for outdoor writers and Mako owners for years, both here and in the Bahamas. These tournaments, enable Mako to test and evaluate new boats, engines, and equipment under the toughest conditions. Today, with more

anglers going greater distances to catch fish, it is extremely important to know what your boat can take. So when you run a fleet of Makos across the Gulf Stream, fish long and hard, often in severe weather, land big fish and run home again, you obviously know what your boats can handle. Mako has even helped tackle manufacturers and electronics companies test their gear during these tournaments. Mako's philosophy is, simply, "the more we learn about our boats through hard tournament fishing, the better our boats can be built for the serious anglers who buy our boats". Mako builds only center console fishing boats. We are the largest builder in the world. Our tournaments are fun, but we take them very seriously. We also take fishing and the future of fishing very seriously. Our tournaments stress light tackle fishing and tagging and releasing. Mako also just completed a 22 minute color film on Shark tagging, to help marine biologists in their tagging programs.

Building fishing boats is our business, but tournaments are a very large part of why Mako boats are the finest center console boats you can buy. For information on our tournaments, write Mako or see a dealer.



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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 13, NO. 26 JUNE 29, 1978

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COMING NEXT WEEK:
SHARK FISHING

About the Cover—

Ronnie Lepper of the Atlantic Beach charterboat "Kim" reaches into the throat of a big striper to remove a 6/0 treble hook he uses when fishing with fresh bunker around the Rockaway Jetties. L.I.F. Publisher Rich Reina looks on.

Richard Reina — PUBLISHER
Scott Simons — MANAGING EDITOR
Dr. Wm. A. Muller — EDITOR
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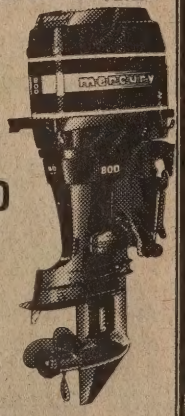

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Have You Written A Letter Yet?
WHY NOT?!!!

If you haven't written a letter yet to U.S. Secretary of Commerce Juanita Kreps yet urging her to appoint Scott Simons to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Council, now is the time—there is no tommorow! The appointments must be made by August 2nd, so we are making one last big letter writing campaign to get Scott appointed so that sportfishermen will finally get the representation on the Council that we deserve. New management plans as a result of the 200-Mile Fishing Limit will directly be effecting the recreational fisherman in the near future, and already the Councils are mumbling about quotas on what we catch, salt water fishing licenses, etc. The New York commercial fishermen have a representative on the Council, so let's write those letters and make sure we get a representative for the sportfisherman appointed! To make things easier, just fill out the coupon below and send it to the Secretary of Commerce, who is the one that will be making the appointments. *Don't delay—write today to save the future of our sport!*

MAIL TO:
Secretary of Commerce Juanita M. Kreps
Dept. of Commerce, Commerce Building
14th & Constitution Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Kreps:

As a recreational sportfisherman that fishes in the waters of New York State, I respectfully request that you appoint Scott Simons to be the Obligatory Member to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Council, whom I feel confident will represent my interests concerning the 200-Mile Fisheries Limit.

My name is _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Telephone Number _____

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My name is _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Telephone Number _____

Pass It On...

STATE SENATE PASSES 26 INCH STRIPED BASS LIMIT

On Friday, June 23, at 1:15 a.m., the State Senate passed the 26 Inch Striped Bass Minimum Size Limit, by a vote of 53-3. Save Our Stripers Executive Vice President, Bob Rance, informed us that SOS was very pleased with the vote, and he also wanted to thank everyone who took the time to phone or write to Albany, because it was only through the efforts and help of fishermen that this Legislation was passed. The most important step still remains, however. Bob urges that we write to Gov. Hugh L. Carey, Executive Chamber, State Capitol, Albany, N.Y. 12224, in order to urge the Governor to sign the bill into law. The Governor has ten (10) days from June 23 in which to either sign the bill or veto it. Should he fail to sign it, his lack of action will be an automatic pocket veto. This is a crucial last step and we don't want to drop the ball now. We know that the commercial fishermen will actively try to force the Governor to veto this legislation; therefore, contact your friends, urge all interested people to write to the Governor as soon as possible.

BOATING

BOATING SKILLS & SEAMANSHIP COURSE

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering a free, eight-week course in Boating Skills, every Monday night at 8 PM, at Cow Meadow Rd., Freeport, in the Administration Building. Classes are continuous and those interested may start any Monday. Subjects covered will be: boat handling, knot tying, chart reading, safety, navigation.

For more info, call Jerry, 799-3928 days; 796-0842 nights.

WANT TO JOIN A BOATING ORGANIZATION? SIGN UP HERE!

Anyone interested in joining a boating organization, dedicated to safe boating and working under the auspices of the local Coast Guard Station, contact Commander Ralph Brown, (516) 661-1839, who is now interviewing for new members.

Membership in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, offers pleasure boaters the opportunity to join other skippers in further advanced training, voluntary participation in the public service programs, which include Public Edu-

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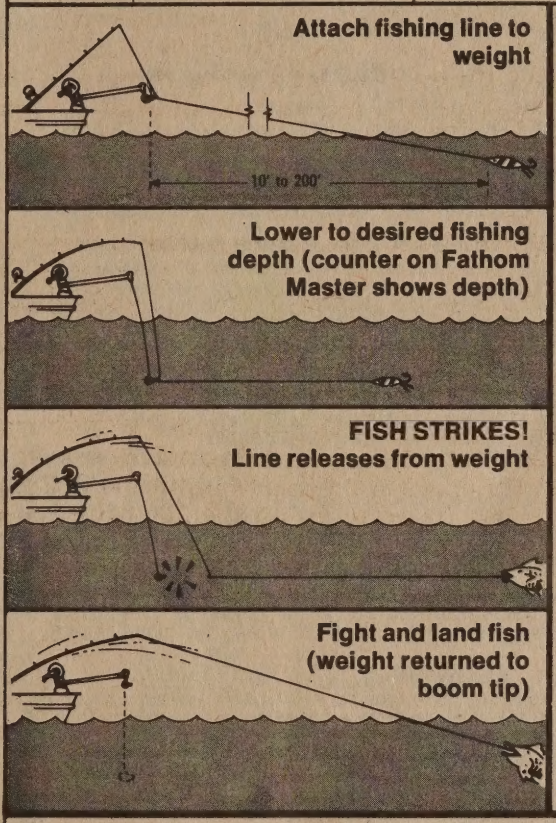
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Contests & Tournaments

US OPEN SWORDFISH TOURNAMENT

US Open Swordfish Tournament will be held on the 7th, 8th and 9th of July. Tournament headquarters is at the Deep Sea and Raquet Club in Montauk. Entry fee is $150 per boat, which includes boat entry, 2 anglers, and 2 tickets to the Lobster/Clambake on Saturday, July 8th. Additional tickets for the clambake are $12.50 per ticket. First prize - $1,000 for heaviest fish. A $250 cash prize to the winning crew. There are other prizes and trophies for second and third place...Also a special Team Trophy for the winning club and a trophy for the heaviest fish caught by a woman angler (in addition to the possibility of winning first).

Boats may enter from any marina, not just the Deep Sea Club. Entry is open to all US citizens mainland and otherwise and they may stay anywhere in Montauk. All fish, however, must be weighed on the Official Tournament Scales at the Deep Sea Club at Montauk. Deadlines for accepting entries will be Thursday July 6th. You may write for applications to:

The US Open Swordfish Tournament
PO Box GG
Montauk, New York 11954

OAKDALE SPORTMEN'S SHARK TOURNY RESULTS

Here are the results of our annual Shark Tournament, which was held on Sunday, June 11, 1978. It was open to members only. Very few small sharks were caught, but the fluefish were plentiful, weighing in up to 15 lbs.

1st Place—Al Robbins, 76¾ lbs.
2nd Place—Ken Wilmer, 70 lbs.
3rd Place —Tom Carr, 46½ lbs.

The following boats will represent us in the Bay Shore Shark Tournament: Special Lady; Wide Open Too; Enjoy It, and Tiderunner (Standby Boat).

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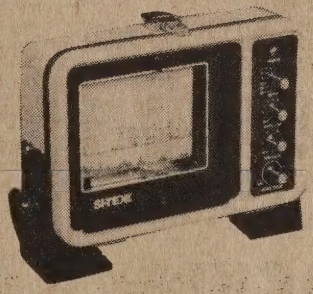

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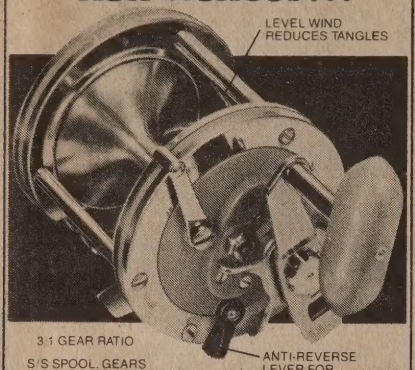

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4-ARM Gorillas, 24" Across
6-ARM Mini-Gorillas, 15" Across

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All with Bead Chain and Mustad Hook
3/16 X 1/16 Black, Red, White, Green, Wine
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CHUM LINES

N.Y. SPORTFISHING COUNCIL SUPPORTS SCOTT'S NOMINATION

Dear Sec. Kreps: The purpose of this letter is to advise you that The New York Sportfishing Council, an organization of sportfishermen, charter boat captains, fishing clubs, tackle dealers and liverymen, support the nomination of Scott Simons as our representative of the recreational fishermen of The Mid-Atlantic Regional Fisheries Council. Scott's name was presented to you by Governor Carey. He is Managing Editor of The Long Island Fisherman, and because of his association with this publication and the fact that he is a dedicated and conscientious fisherman, we feel that he is the person who should represent us, "the fishermen of New York," on The Mid-Atlantic Council. He most certainly will have the time to devote to the problems confronting the Council and through his association with the publication, will be able to inform all concerned of the daily and specific problems as they arise. Scott is a fisherman who will represent us—other fishermen. We most certainly do not feel that our representative should be an individual politically inclined, and most definitely not a person who has no interest in our sport.

In conclusion, we urge you to recognize the needs of fishermen by nominating Scott Simons whom, we feel, adequately represents the thousands who constitute our membership—The New York Sportfishing Council. **Robert W. Mayer, President.**

BABYLON TUNA CLUB

Dear Secretary: As marine recreational anglers, we are adding our voice in the selection of members to be appointed by you to "the 200 Mile Limit" fishery management council of the Mid-Atlantic area, which includes N.Y. State.

At a regular meeting of the Babylon Tuna Club held May 12, 1978, it was unanimously resolved by the members present that the Babylon Tuna Club endorse the appointment of Scott Simons to the Fishery Management Council.

Scott Simons' nomination has been made by The Long Island Fisherman weekly publication with which he is associated and we feel he is well qualified to represent us and all other N.Y. State saltwater fishermen. His required biographical information has already been sent to you by the L.I. Fisherman, published by Richard Reina.

The Babylon Tuna Club is a 300-member sportfishing organization founded in 1939 and one of the largest of its kind. We claim to be the most active, have the most world records, and recently won the U.S. Atlantic Tuna Tournament. Our members are mainly residents of L.I.'s South Shore and our membership rolls are always open to any person who likes to fish.

We are well aware of the necessity of the 200 mile limit to protect the U.S. fisheries from overfishing by foreign fleets—and some of our own.

Thank you for your consideration and interest. **Fred Guardineer, Corresponding Sec'y.**

EAST BAY ANGLERS WANTS SCOTT ON COUNCIL

Dear Secretary Kreps: Governor Carey of New York has submitted to you two lists of nominees to fill the two New York seats that have come up for re-appointment to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Fisheries Council. The East Bay Anglers strongly endorse one nominee—Scott Simons, to fill one of these two seats.

Scott Simons is a knowledgeable and responsible sports fisherman who is genuinely concerned with the preservation of the present fisheries for our future generations of fishermen. Through the effort of Scott Simons and thousands of "like-minded" recreational fishermen, the 200 Mile fishing limit became a reality.

Furthermore, we feel that Scott Simons' appointment to the Council will further enhance the present Council membership by representing the interests of the recreational fishermen. The present Council membership does not have a recreational representative from New York at this time.

In summary, we feel that Scott Simons' appointment to the Council will serve the best interests of all fishermen for the present and for future generations. **George Smith, President, East Bay Anglers.**

THOMAS JEFFERSON FISHING CLUB NEWS

On June 8, 1978 (Brooklyn Day), the fishing club of Thomas Jefferson High School, Brooklyn, N.Y., went out on the "Pilot II" out of Sheepshead Bay.

Captain Tom Marconi graciously supplied the club with rods and reels. Although the day was gray and the seas choppy, the students and teachers had a fine time catching blackfish and sea bass. Dennis James was high hook among the students with 14 fish, while the club advisor, Bill Fink, caught 25 blackfish and won the pool to boot!

Jerry, the mate, was a true gentleman, helping students until their bird's-nests, and generally providing a helping hand.

We wish to thank Captain Tom and mate Jerry for a most enjoyable trip.

By the way, our club uses the L.I.F. as a dependable source of information.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR	3:44	4:21	4:42	5:24	4:26	5:03	5:41	6:13	8:10	8:35	7:27	7:53	3:40	4:14	6/29
FRI	4:43	5:16	5:42	6:17	5:25	5:58	6:41	7:04	9:08	9:29	8:27	8:46	4:38	5:07	6/30
SAT	5:40	6:07	6:38	7:04	6:22	6:50	7:35	7:49	10:01	10:16	9:20	9:36	5:29	5:55	7/1
SUN	6:31	6:52	7:24	7:50	7:13	7:35	8:18	8:31	10:48	11:01	10:08	10:21	6:17	6:40	7/2
MON	7:17	7:33	8:10	8:29	7:59	8:17	8:59	9:08	11:32	11:41	10:51	11:03	7:03	7:25	7/3
TUE	7:58	8:12	8:51	9:08	8:42	8:55	9:39	9:45	—	12:10	11:32	11:41	7:47	8:07	7/4
WED	8:38	8:49	9:29	9:45	9:24	9:33	10:17	10:23	12:15	12:44	—	12:09	8:29	8:47	7/5
THUR	9:17	9:25	10:09	10:21	10:05	10:10	10:56	10:59	12:34	1:04	12:20	12:47	9:12	9:28	7/6

HOW TO USE THE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

6/5	5:25	8:32
6/10	5:24	8:35
6/15	5:24	8:37
6/20	5:24	8:39
6/25	5:25	8:40
6/30	5:27	8:40

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr	FULL	2nd Qtr
6/5	6/13	6/20	6/27

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	12:35	**7:10**	1:05	**7:35**
Fri.	1:20	**7:55**	1:50	**8:20**
Sat.	2:05	**8:35**	2:35	**9:05**
Sun.	2:45	**9:20**	3:20	**9:45**
Mon.	3:30	**10:05**	4:00	**10:30**
Tues.	4:15	**10:50**	4:45	**11:15**
Wed.	5:00	**11:40**	5:30	—
Thurs.	5:50	**12:05**	6:20	**12:30**

FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

MULLET
Mugil cephalus

ONCE AN AWAITED PHENOMENA! This is another in a regular-irregular series on bait fish. Frankly, I've been very surprised by the enthusiastic interest of fishermen about the bait fish columns. But, really, it was foolish of me not to think that fishermen would be interested in reading about bait fish. Fellow High Hill Striper Club member, Jim Juliano, even told me that this bait fish series saved him from reading an endless series of volumes on bait fish during this past winter. As a result of all the time that was saved, Jim took up running and has succeeded in getting himself in such great shape that he plans to fish every night. He says that he no longer needs sleep. The victory of mind over matter! Right, Jim? In any event, whether Jim succeeds in his assault against the finny critters of the sea or not, he, like many of us who call the surf our home away from home, will be looking for a decent run of mullet this September in the South Shore surf. God knows, we deserve it. There was a time, and not too many years ago at that, that the first good blow in September started the mullet pouring out of the South Shore bays through the inlets. At the inlets, the bass and blues would stack up waiting for the feast. Mullet run right outside the wash, so when the predators put on the feed-bag they are almost always within casting range. In addition, they are all charged up and need little encouragement to slam a plug!

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THIS BEAST CALLED MULLET! The common mullet, as it is called, is the only species out of about 100 members of the mullet family that regularly swims in northern waters. "Jumping" mullet are not uncommon in New York waters and some can usually be encountered in the late summer, but they will not go further north than Cape Cod, and not in large numbers. Small mullet can be easily confused with some other baits such as spearing, but a close look at the mullet reveals that the head is blunt, the eyes smaller, and the dorsal fin starts much closer to the head. There are four spines in the first dorsal and one spine and eight soft rays in the second portion.

COLOR. Young mullet are basically silvery, but as they mature the dorsal surface becomes dark blue or silvery blue and sometimes the dorsal color is greenish instead of blue. The scales have a dark center which gives this bait fish an unmistakable appearance.

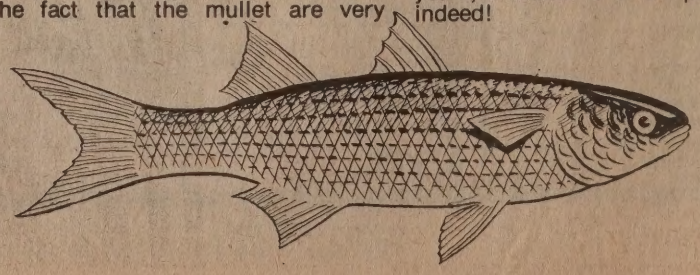
SIZE. Believe it or not the common mullet, like most of its relatives, can grow quite large. In the southern portion of its range, it has been known to reach a length of several feet. In northern waters, we experience the smaller fish. These fish are probably spawned nearby and the youngsters grow during the summer before migrating south in the fall. The run of mullet that leaves the bays usually is made of fish between four and six inches, although schools of larger and smaller specimens have been observed. Because the fall mullet that run the beaches are small, almost any artificial will do. Rebels and Red-Fins are very effective in the inlets, around jetties, and when the fish are working over the bait very close to the beach. Tins take fish, as do larger plugs when the fish are further off the beach. A wide variety of plugs are also successful because the feeding rates as a "frenzy" and the fish strike with barely a look, especially in white water.

RANGE. The mullets are common in all temperate seas. The common mullet is found on both sides of the Atlantic. On the west side of the Atlantic, the fish range from Brazil to Cape Cod, but the mullet are generally only abundant as far north as New York. Some mullet have been reported to winter over in the mud bottoms of the bays and many anglers have reported that they saw mullet in the hot water outflows at power plants, especially at Northport.

HABITS. The mullet are quite speedy and they pursue small baits such as very young fish, shrimp, worms, and other floating and slow swimming critters. They can, at times, be seen chasing bait at the surface and at such times they will jump out of the water. Mullet have very small mouths, and thus they can be caught with flies and other small artificials as well as with very small pieces of bait. In fact, some ultra-light tackle enthusiasts deliberately seek them out. They say that the tendency of the mullet to make quick runs and to jump make them ideal for fly fishing, even though they remain very difficult to hook.

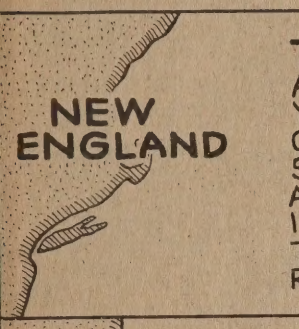
MIGRATION. It is apparently true that a slight drop in water temperature that is brought about by the fall's first northeast storm or the first cold snap of the season, stimulates the mullet to begin sweeping to the south. Whether this response is a result of the fact that the mullet are very sensitive to the slightest cooling or whether the migration behavior is finely tuned, remains something of a mystery. The migration out of our bays is not of long duration and is usually over in a week or so. They swim out of the bays in a tightly packed school almost always near the surface. The fisherman can spot them because, as they swim near the surface, the schools make a V-shaped wake that is easily spotted. Not every school of mullet is found by the bass, blues, and weaks. Many may be unattended by predators. The prescribed approach is to head for the inlets and bars during and immediately after the first storm or cold snap because it is here where the predators are most likely to be. Frequently, bass and blues will corner the mullet in the back of the Jones Beach West End jetty, and once the bait is trapped in this pocket the action may last for hours since the feeding activity of the bass and the structure of the jetty prevents further movement along the beach.

LIFE SPAN AND CYCLES. There is no evidence that the stocks of mullet are depleted. Rather, since mullet are still abundant in the waters from south Jersey to North Carolina, it would seem that subtle changes in the seasonal water temperatures of our part of the ocean have prevented an adequate spill-over from the south. Last year, however, tremendous numbers of mullet were seen in rather deep water in New York Bight. Fishermen are at a loss to explain the behavior and the observation has encouraged many anglers to believe that, within a few years, the mullet may once again be very common along the beaches in September. We have seen similar changes take place in the abundance of bunker, and reports this spring indicate that there have been large numbers of small palm-sized bunker entering the South Shore bays. Maybe that's a good sign that things are changing in the bait fish department. Can you imagine if we had small bunker and lots of mullet to add to the glut of sand eels. This can't be New York, it must be Heaven! Mullet have a rather short life span and at the age of above five years, a mullet is of a ripe old age, indeed!



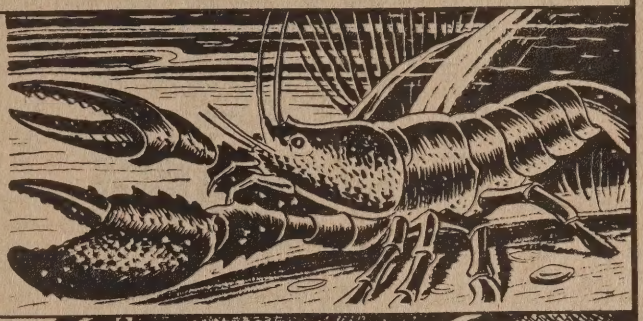
THE CONTINENTAL SHELF

THE SUBMERGED SHELF WHICH RINGS THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA IS A COMPLEX ENVIRONMENT OF ABUNDANT SEA LIFE FROM THE ROCKY NEW ENGLAND COAST TO THE KELP BEDS OF THE PACIFIC. IT CAN BE DIVIDED INTO FIVE DISTINCT SECTIONS WHICH CONTAIN ONE-FIFTH OF ALL THE SEA FOOD IN THE WORLD INSIDE THE PROTECTIVE 200 MILE LIMIT.



NEW ENGLAND

THE LOBSTER LIVES AS IT DID 10,000 YEARS AGO AND CANNOT ADAPT TO SUDDEN CHANGE AND OVERFISHING. IT IS ATTRACTED TO SPILLED OIL FOR REASONS UNKNOWN.

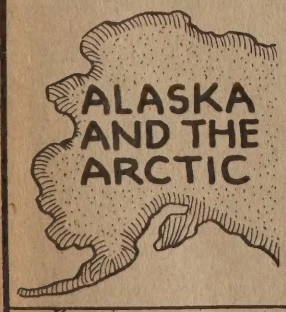


TEMPERATE ATLANTIC

BUNKERS PROTECT THEMSELVES AT NIGHT BY FORMING ENORMOUS SCHOOLS. THE WALLS OF MASSED FISH STARTLE POTENTIAL ENEMIES INTO FLEEING ALTHOUGH STRAY FISH ARE PICKED OFF.

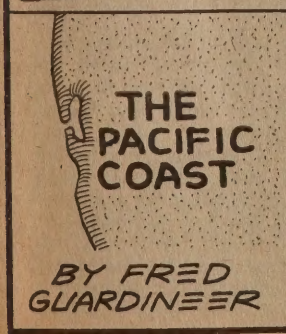
GULF OF MEXICO

MANGROVE TREES IN 3 FT. BRACKISH WATERS ARE ESSENTIAL TO SHRIMP, CRABS AND OTHER MARINE LIFE, IN THE SHALLOW GULF COAST, WHICH BREED AMONG THE EXPOSED ROOTS.



ALASKA AND THE ARCTIC

THIS SECTION IS THE LAST STRONGHOLD OF NORTH AMERICAN MARINE MAMMALS AND THE ENVIRONMENT IS AS FRAGILE AS THE TUNDRA. IT MUST BE CAREFULLY PROTECTED TO PRESERVE REMAINING SEA LIONS, SEALS ETC.



THE PACIFIC COAST

BY FRED GUARDINEER

BELOW THE SURFACE THIS COAST GOES OFF DEEP WITH HILLS, CLIFFS AND VALLEYS LIKE THE MOUNTAINS ON LAND. MARINE LIFE IS VERY DENSE AMONG THE SEA ANEMONES AND FRONDS OF KELP.

Sinker Bouncing with Matt Ahern

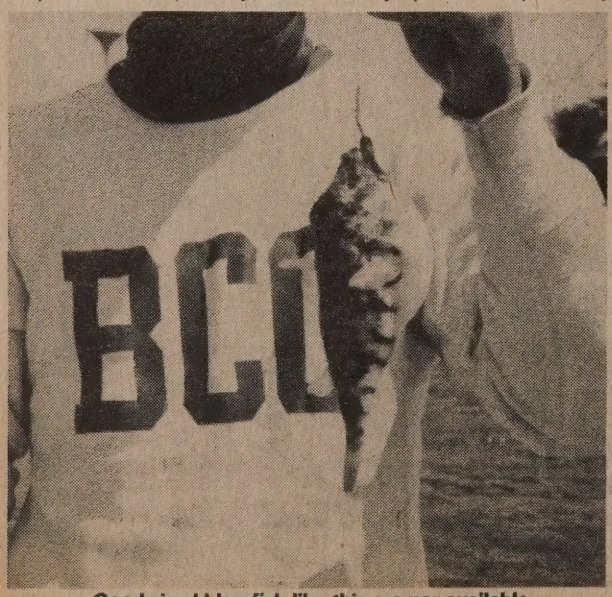
BLOWFISH

I have got to admit that I debated awhile before writing this article. The last one I wrote on blowfish—about two years ago—proved an embarrassment to say the least, and I've kind of shied away from it. My bright forecast calling for an improvement in the blowfish situation turned out to be a clunker—as spurious as a three dollar bill. Which only goes to show that no matter how long you've been fishing, never take anything for granted. Sure, there isn't one of us bottom fishing addicts who doesn't know local blowfish action has been slow for a number of years, but the signs as I saw them did, indeed, point to a promise of great improvement. Alas and lackaday! That expected outpouring from the spigot of plenty turned out to be a mere dribble. Then why waste time and valuable space writing another article on the same fish? Well, that statement above about never taking anything for granted in the fishing game can become a two-edged sword. It all depends upon what side of the piscatorial fence you're on at the moment. Maybe, just maybe mind you, by the time you read this, blowfish will be around in sufficient enough numbers to induce fishermen to give them a try.

Most of us fellows can remember when, due to the blowfish's super abundance, these fish were considered little more than pests. The reason for this was readily apparent. It was indeed difficult to catch other bottom feeders when blowfish were about. They were bait-stealers and hook-chompers without peer.

Few fishermen brought blowfish home for the table, and most annoyed sinker bouncers simply cursed the fish for its greed and then foolishly stuck a knife in them and tossed the carcass back—which we now know was a stupid thing to do, and I admit being just as asinine as the next guy, for I was certainly one of those who regarded this fine-eating fish as lower than low. To my shame, I did my share of knife-sticking.

The shortage of blowfish, however, cannot be placed entirely on unthinking sport fishermen. When the gourmet qualities of blowfish were recognized, commmercial fishermen found a ready market, and these enterprising hard-working harvestors of the sea lost no time satisfying the demand which, of course, is right and proper in this respect. Unfortunately, this heavy pressure probably coincided with a series of poor spawning years, and coupled with colder than normal water temperatures in the crucial years, with possibly a few other factors of which we are probably unaware were, I think, a little too much for our local blowfish to withstand for any length of time.



Good-sized blowfish like this are nor available.

Be that as it may, I do believe blowfish will return in substantial numbers. Nature isn't stymied for long. If not this year, then perhaps next. I have nothing to go on in this assumption; just a hunch. Fish scarcities are nothing new. We've seen sea bass, porgy, fluke, and weakfish anglers go through the despair and doldrums of poor fishing for some years, only to be joyfully surprised by entirely unexpected fair to excellent catches in recent times; so there's no reason to assume it is all over with the blowfish. (Stripers anglers, take heart.)

And I suppose that's why I decided to write another blowfish article. Hope forever springs eternally in the fisherman's breast.

I know I'm trodding on some toes, for there are plenty of sinker bouncers who couldn't care less whether blowfish return or not. If you are one of these fellows, I see your point: for what sluggish blowfish could ever compare to a flounder, fluke, or what have you? But what about those fellows who like to get out there, drop a bait overboard and reel up whatever grabs the hook? Certainly in our bottom fishing clan they must be legion.

If you're one of these fellows and you've never caught blowfish before, let me say that when these eager-beavers are around, this is the easiest fishing you'll ever find. Tackle requirements are minimal; any terminal gear set-up will do; bait is no problem, and you can be successful either from shore or boat. When blowfish are available, no one gets skunked. In fact, it's just about impossible not to catch them.

Blowfish will never win an award for fighting ability. A bergall of the same size will certainly put up more resistance. I suppose this lackluster attitude is why many fishermen look down upon blowfish. But when you think of it, this really isn't the poor creature's fault. It's doing the best it can with what Nature gave it. And Nature certainly gave it something no other fish of my acquaintance has: the ability to swallow water—or air—and turn itself into a drum-tight sphere in order to escape its enemies. I'll bet there's many a frustrated fluke that would agree. Catch one blowfish and you'll immediately become acquainted with this pneumatic phenomenon. Incidentally, one of the enjoyable by-products of a successful blowfish trip occurs when you have a couple of kids along. No one gets as much charge out of blowfish as several wide-awake kids.

Any type of tackle will do to catch blowfish, even a drop-line, but if you want to get the most fun out of these sluggish fighters, it is best to use light spinning equipment. Fill a matching reel with ten pound test mono, and you're in business.

Rigging is certainly no problem. Rig as if you were out after flounder, using two hooks tied tandem fashion for best results, and that's all that is necessary. If there is anything of importance pertaining to blowfishing, it is to use a long-shanked hook. Blowfish have a wicked set of bony plates in place of individual teeth and their vise-like grip can make short work of any mono snell used with a short-shanked hook. If long shanks aren't available, it is best to use a short piece of fine, short wire between the hook and snell. Incidentally, watch your fingers when removing the hook. I'd suggest a pair of needle-nose pliers be in your tackle box and that they be put to use on each and every blowfish for safety's sake.

Bait is absolutely no problem. Whatever natural bait you can think of will certainly prove attractive to the ever-hungry blowfish. (And some not so natural. As a kid I caught many a blowfish on tomato skins!) But for all around choice, I don't think you'll do better than employing small pieces of squid. The blowfish's mouth isn't large, so it is necessary to use small, narrow slices of bait—about an inch long is about right. Whether you allow the hook point to protrude or not doesn't really matter. The blowfish doesn't give a rap if it sees the hook or not. The only thing this piscatorial chow-hound sees is that delicious morsel of bait lying unprotected on the bottom.

There really is no "best" place to seek blowfish.

There isn't a body of fishing water on Long Island or around New Jersey where they won't be found. You have as good a chance of catching large blowfish in some shallow-water creek as you have in the Peconics or Great South Bay. On occasion, I have caught migrating blowfish on the offshore wrecks in October; but contrary to what you might expect, these were no larger than those caught inshore during summer.

Blowfish are a gourmet's delight. "Finger-lickin' good," is how one buddy of mine expressed himself one evening while we were sitting around the dinner table munching away; and this was long before Colonel Sanders' fame. I don't deny he had a point. But to properly enjoy this tasty sea food at the table, you've got to know how to prepare it. It's a little different than most other fish cleaning. It will take a little time to get the hang of it, but once learned, a proficient fisherman can breeze through a bucketful in little time. Two implements are needed: a sharp knife and a pair of old cotton work gloves. It is indeed foolish to attempt to skin blowfish without the protection of gloves. That coarse, sandpaper-like hide will cut your hands to a frazzle. You may not notice this at the time of actual cleaning, but you certainly will the next day.

I find the best way to skin a blowfish is to hold it down on a cutting board with your left hand (if you are right-handed) and make a cut behind the head. Sever the backbone, but don't cut through the stomach. Grasp the head in one hand, the body in the other and turn the blowfish inside-out. What you have left is a beautiful slab of white meat often called sea squab or chicken of the sea.

To achieve this sounds easy, and of course it is, but only after you've had a little practice; but don't despair, you'll get it quickly enough. A trick some fishermen use is to insert the knife blade between the meat and the loose skin after the initial cut has been made, then follow through with a shallow slice along the back to the tail. This aids in starting the skinning so that the hide is removed with little difficulty. I find it is best to clean your catch right on the grounds. There's a lot less mess to contend with later, and a lot less weight to carry. Most fellows do this.

Many blowfish caught in spring contain roe. I would suggest you not use this or feed it to your pets. I have never known anyone to become sick when eating roe from our northern blowfish, but a close relative found in South American waters does contain poisonous roe, for which there is no known cure. Play it safe. Discard overboard for the crabs or gulls.

Before I conclude this article, let me say this. I've just returned from a look-see on Peconic Bay where I met two fishing buddies who told me that they've been catching a dozen or more "he-man size" blowfish on a daily basis for over a week. These guys don't kid, so I guess I'll try it. Maybe if I'm lucky, I'll pick up a few. And those few will be welcome, indeed. It's been a long time.

SWORDFISH *(Continued from page 17.)*

long-lines—an indication that the population may be stressed.

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council has just let out a contract for a study of the fishery—to be followed by a management plan next year. Because of the clandestine nature of this fishery, finding out just what is being caught and by whom, involves something more akin to detective work than just the simple gathering of statistics. The problem may become even more acute this year, as a Federal Judge ruled that the FDA limit of .5 ppm of mercury was unreasonable and moved the limit up to 1.0 ppm—a change which will make more swordfish eligible for interstate shipment. Hopefully, with public support, a management plan will be in effect before the damage is done!

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Surf Side with John Fritz

JULY PROSPECTS

The fish, which last month were migrating along the beaches, are slowly settling into their summer habitat. Techniques used early in the month on these fish will have to be altered to conform with their summer routine. Although dawn and dusk action is always possible for those seeking game fish, summertime beach fishing is almost exclusively a nighttime proposition. Furthermore, unless a plentiful supply of bait fish take up residence in localized areas of the outer sandy beaches holding the larger fish, most of this month's activity will take place in the quiet waters of the back bay and in the surging inlets of the South Shore. The exception to this theory is found where jetties or other obstructions are present to provide an environment suitable to hold a bait supply. Shorefront areas adjacent to inlets will benefit from bait supplies being flushed in and out of the inlets. The North Shore of the Island can be picked for fish after dark, with the heaviest concentrations being found near the inlets and prominent rocky points where rips are formed on the running tides.

In order to pinpoint and expand on a few of the better choices implied in the opening paragraph, I'll start with the South Shore inlets. Equip yourself with medium weight tackle capable of handling the smaller versions of swimming plugs, such as the five inch Rebels, Red-Fins and the Atom Jrs. A nine-foot medium action stick equipped with a reel comparable to the Penn 710 filled with ten or twelve pound test line will allow you to work these plugs and still provide sufficient backbone to handle good-sized fish. The choice of lures can be expanded to include some sinking plugs, whiptails, plastic eels, and bucktails. All of these should be included in your plug bag to allow for any change in the feeding habits of your prey.

If you are unfamiliar with the inlet you intend to fish, make a few trips to the area beforehand on different stages of the tide and during times when the winds are blowing from various directions. Make notes—mental or otherwise—of when and where various rips, eddies, and bait concentrations form on what segment of the tide; on which winds, at what velocity. If your free time is limited, focus your attention on winds from the southwest for they are the prevailing ocean-front winds in the evenings at this time of the year.

True, some conspicuous rips can be found at night, but the finer points are better seen in the daylight. Also, if you intend to cover a large area a sort of time schedule can be set up to fish in certain locations when you feel the tide is right.

Remember that tide stages and current flow in and around inlets do not necessarily coincide. At Fire Island Inlet, for instance, the tide might be starting to drop while the current will continue to flow inward for two to three hours, depending on the stage of the moon, before it begins its outward flow. If all this seems like a lot of needless effort, I will say that fish can be caught in a hit-or-miss fashion, but the fisherman who takes time to study the finer points will score with a higher success rate.

As stated, this is a nighttime activity. Cast your lure upstream at approximately a forty-five degree angle and slowly, ever so slowly, retrieve the lure as it swings across in front of you. When the hit comes and you successfully hang the fish, you'll have the strong currents of the inlet to contend with; so be prepared to move downstream with your fish.

If you are adventuresome and do not mind stomping through the swamp grass, extend your fishing area into the back bay itself. A good portion of the bass and weakfish take up summer residence here and quiet stalking of the creek banks can produce lively action for those willing to undertake the task. When winds are light or non-existent, make sure you carry a plentiful supply of mosquito repellent for the attack of these bloodthirsty critters will make any venture into their territory unbearable.

The same equipment employed in the inlets can be used here. These calm waters inside the surf line are perfect places to fish with a fly rod. The strong southwest winds prevalent in the late afternoon on the South Shore tend to diminish after sunset. This gentle wind at your back is made to order for this type of fishing and the calm water covering the shallow flats and creek edges create ideal conditions in which to present your lure. Because of the nature of these back bay waters, stealth is advised for a carelessly shone light or inadvertent splash can spook any fish in your area.

Those of you who dislike fishing the backside areas, can find worthwhile fishing on the outside sandy beaches adjacent to the inlets. Fishing bottom with sand worms is one way to spend a pleasant summer night with a good chance of catching striped bass or weakfish. These worms fished from a fish-finder rig with a cork from such beaches as Democrat, West End, or Breezy will attract any fish searching the surf line for food. Skimmer clam bait is a good substitute when seeking striped bass, while bunker chunks can be used for either bass or bluefish.

In recent years, many surfmen are relying more heavily on the use of bait to catch blues which, in years past, were more than willing to smash a rapidly retrieved popping plug. Occasionally this type of action is encountered at dawn, but with ever decreasing regularity during the summer months.

If bottom fishing does not turn you on, one recourse open to you is to concentrate on fishing the various jetties with swimming plugs or bucktails. The larger inlet jetties get the most play, but the smaller rock piles in the Long Beach and Rockaway areas will produce bass for the patient angler.

Bucktails in the three ounce sizes and up, bounced along the bottom in the stronger inlet currents is one method used to score. Smaller versions adorned with a strip of squid or mackerel belly can be utilized to take fluke in the daytime. Cast up current, let the bucktail sink to the bottom and start a slow retrieve with intermittent twitches of your rod tip. As when fishing with any lure, if success is not forthcoming, try different variations in your retrieve.

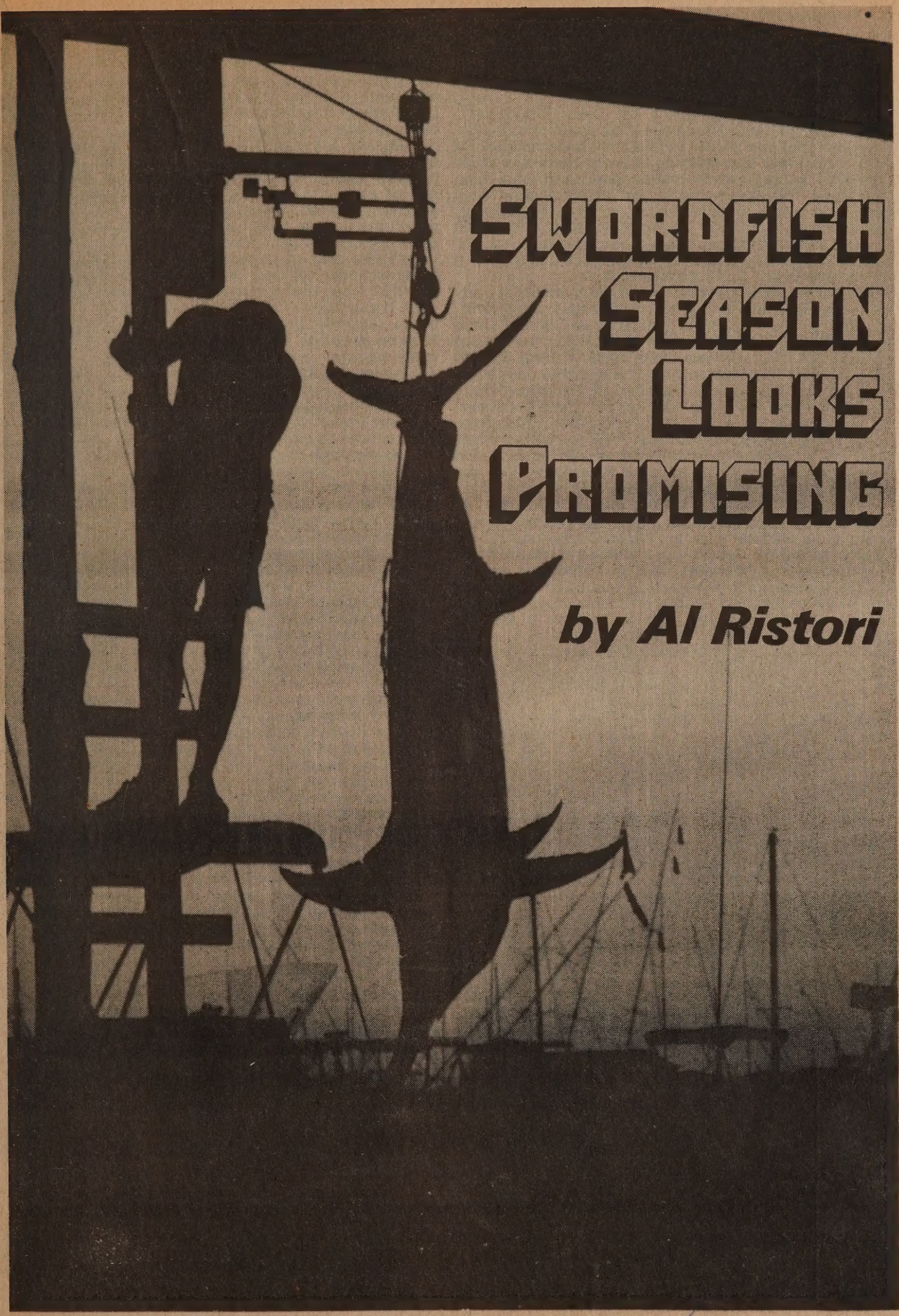
Since most predators feeding around rock jetties and breakwaters are found close to the rocks where the bait is, the closer you can work the lure, the more rewarding your effort will be. Long casts are often not necessary; therefore, smaller sticks with some backbone are standard equipment. Limber wands are out of the question due to strong currents and bottom obstructions. Chasing the fish downstream is not practical on most jetties because the footing is so uncertain. When working swimming plugs make your cast so that the plug is worked as close as possible parallel to the jetty without getting hung up.

No, all action is not located on the South Shore. The inlets and rocky points along Long Island Sound will produce bass, blues, and weaks also. Blues and weaks are more apt to be encountered during the dawn and dusk periods while summer bass are more likely to be taken in the dark.

Weakfishing was very strong throughout most of the Sound waters last year. Four and five-inch floating Rebels and Red-Fins took a good share of these fish, with whiptails and bucktails hot items also.

Sand worms fished in such river mouths as the Stony Brook and Nissequogue will continue to take both weaks and bass at night. Dawn at these locations periodically witnesses schools of bluefish feeding on the bait fish being flushed seaward on the ebb tide.

While the pace of the fishing slackens as this month progresses, there are still fish to be caught if a person is willing to lose a bit of sleep and put some effort into each venture. The easy, fast-paced action is more than two months ahead, so make do with what is currently available. You can be one of the sharpies who catches fish when most others are still reliving the past month or looking forward to September.



SWORDFISH SEASON LOOKS PROMISING

by Al Ristori

Prospects for the 1978 swordfish season off Long Island and the southern New England coast look promising—not so much because more fish appear to be available, but rather due to the number of anglers talking about trying out the techniques that have revolutionized swordfishing in Florida.

Traditionally, swordfishing has been a "sighting" sport. Though fishermen have long been aware that swordfish feed primarily in the depths, the techniques for both commercial and sporting capture concentrated on their brief appearances on the surface. Until long-lining techniques were introduced in our waters about twenty years ago, the commercial catch was taken by harpoon. Swordfish often surface during the day and seem to literally sun themselves, sometimes appearing to be asleep. They are normally easy to approach and top-notch harpooners rarely miss a spotted fish.

An illustration of just how easy these sunning fish can be to approach was provided in the waters off Salinas, Ecuador several years ago. Fishing aboard one of Knud Holst's charter boats, the "X1" for striped marlin, we encountered a small swordfish lazily finning on the surface. Pass after pass with our baits stirred no interest from the swordfish and our crew decided they would try to catch it by other means for the market. Captain German Bazan rigged a huge gang hook to one of our rigs and was actually able to simply drop it right over the fish from the bow. The swordfish woke up when he felt the hook and finally took off, but the point about how closely they can often be approached was well made!

The traditional sport fishing method works on the same theory. The swordfishing boat runs around in likely areas all day without even putting a bait over unless the quarry is sighted. The baiting technique is also different from that used on other big game fish. Rather than trolling the bait past the swordfish in hopes that he will follow and attack, the bait is simply trolled until it's in front of the fish and then allowed to sink. The expectation is that the swordfish will see the sinking bait (usually a large squid) and follow it down. Unfortunately, few swordfish show any interest at all in the baits—and that's only part of the problem in eventually putting one in the boat.

It's often been said that you have to spot ten swordfish in order to find one that will hit a bait; and then only one in ten that hit will be successfully hooked and fought all the way. This isn't due to the use of tackle that's really too light; eighty pound gear is standard, though it's relatively unusual to encounter a specimen over 400 lbs. The real problem is the softness of the swordfish's mouth. If the bait isn't swallowed, it's likely that the hook will pull out during the fight. Anglers try to compensate for this with a very long drop-back, double hook rigs, and a fighting technique that involves keeping the fish pointed away from the boat at all times, in order to maximize the possibility of the two hooks snagging the fish as they pull out. Indeed, some experts claim that the great majority of swordfish taken by this technique are actually foul-hooked.

In view of the difficulties involved in swordfishing, it's little wonder that it has long been regarded as a rich man's sport. Since spotting is the prime factor in successful swordfishing, the vertical size of an angler's boat is usually what determines its utility for the sport. The higher the tuna tower, the better are your chances of spotting fish. Small boats without that advantage really have to be lucky to spot that one swordfish in ten that will hit when they have a hard enough time spotting any at all! The patience to run around the ocean all day looking for fish that may never appear, is another aspect of this sport that serves to eliminate all but the most dedicated. Even among those with the time, patience and money to spend in swordfishing, the actual success ratio is so small, that outstanding anglers can count their lifetime catches on their fingers. Few have had to worry about how many toes they have!

Swordfish are hard enough to catch on rod and reel when they're abundant, but after the long-liners did a job on them it became difficult to even spot a surfacing fish in the Sixties and early Seventies. Ironically, it was a rather silly ruling by the FDA that led to the present revival of the swordfishery. When the "mercury problem" was discovered, it was soon determined that most swordfish were over the arbitrarily established threshold. Of course, all large species at the top of the predator chain are "high" in mercury content. The tuna industry, with its heavy political clout, was quickly able to resolve its problem, but the swordfish fishermen (with no organization) soon became the victims of what has turned out to be almost a Government vendetta.

Despite the fact that the mercury in swordfish is natural (it is strictly an offshore fish which eats other offshore species not affected by industrial discharges), and no proof has ever been submitted of anyone being adversely affected by eating this species, the FDA pulled out all the stops in their campaign to prevent Americans from eating another piece of swordfish. That effort reached its peak of silliness when a Martha's Vineyard fisherman was not only prohibited from marketing his swordfish, but wasn't even allowed to use it as lobster bait! The authorities required that it be burnt in the town dump. God only knows what they thought was happening to all the swordfish that were dying naturally in the oceans every day!

As inexcusable as the FDA panic reaction to mercury in swordfish was, it probably turned out to be the best thing that has happened to the species in quite sometime. With the market virtually destroyed, commercial pressure was reduced to almost nothing. This was just what the species required, as after the initial bonanza in long-lining (I remember the wholesale price dropping as low as thirty-five cents a pound about twenty years ago), swordfish became quite scarce and most of the commercials were going out of business even before the FDA drove the final nail in their coffin. Since then, given the respite in commercial activity, swordfish populations have increased and both harpooners and long-liners are back at it—picking away at holes in the law to cash in on a rejuvenated population and super high prices.

Theoretically, with an FDA limit of .5 ppm mercury content, there shouldn't be any such thing as a legal swordfish, unless it is a very young fish. However, swordfish are legal within the boundaries of most states and that is why the landings have been able to continue. Of course, there is no question that a great many of these fish find their way across state lines despite the best efforts of the Federal Government. For instance, when the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council held its August meeting at the Hotel Hershey in Pennsylvania last year, the featured item on the Hotel menu was swordfish. When you see swordfish on the menu in any other coastal state there is always the possibility that it was caught off the shore line of that state. However, there is no way that anyone could be fooled into thinking that the swordfish on the Hotel Hersey menu was plucked from the tidal waters of the Delaware River! Nevertheless, our Federal colleagues ate heartily, secure in the knowledge that the same sort of thing occurs across the country and is of no concern to anyone except the bureaucrats at FDA, who will never admit to having been wrong about the limit in the first place.

While Massachusetts harpooners have been quietly making a fortune on the relatively abundant swordfish the last few years, the big surge in productivity has occurred in a state which was never before associated with swordfishing. Cuban refugees have been long-lining swordfish for several years and anglers jumped on the bandwagon a couple of years ago. The technique is nothing new, but sportsmen never gave it much of a try before as it seemed that two or three lines trailing from one drifting boat didn't stand much of a chance as compared to a long-line with its hundreds (or thousands) of hooks. Nevertheless, Florida anglers achieved almost instant success and created a great new sportfishery.

While at first it was assumed that the swordfish caught off the Miami area were simply migrating to somewhere else, we now know that the situation is far more complicated than that. Not only are swordfish taken in Florida during the spring, but also summer and fall—at the same time other swordfish are populating northern waters. While only a few anglers participated in the fishery a couple of years ago, there are now boats drifting

in the Gulf Stream on every reasonably calm night in the spring and summer. From Fort Pierce to Key West (where runs to the Gulf Stream are short) night swordfishing has quickly become standard procedure. It's still in its infancy further north along the coast due to the long runs offshore, but South Carolina sportsmen caught a number of swords last summer.

Originally most fishermen assumed that swordfish sunned themselves on the surface during the day, and fed deep at night. Both fishing results and the little bit of scientific information we've gathered so far indicates that the opposite is true. Last spring, I spent a week on the "Sea World," a California research vessel operating temporarily out of Cabo San Lucas at the tip of Baja California. During that week, Dr. Frank Carey, of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, was tagging swordfish with sonar tags and tracking them for days at a time. A fairly clear pattern emerged for fish tagged while sunning themselves in waters over the Shelf. They would move offshore and stay near the surface at night. Near dawn, they'd move inshore and stay near the bottom. Only occasionally would they surface during the day. This pattern may not fit in every situation, but it does indicate that some of our assumptions may have been wrong—and certainly fits in with the actual fishing results. Though the Florida fish are found in depths of 600-1000 or more feet, baits are fished generally from 30-120 feet.

The night swordfishing technique is fairly simple. Two or three lines are suspended at varying depths and additional attraction is provided by a light stick attached to line or bait. Generally the light stick (a commercial product which produces light chemically when the stick is bent) is tied into the snap swivel, though some fishermen insert them into the bait (usually squid)—and others have even tried injecting the chemical into the bait. You may be able to find this product in hardware stores. If not, try writing to the Florida distributor of Cyalume Lightsticks: Mr. David Lloyd, Global Services, Inc., 19035 BelAire Drive, Miami, Florida 33157. They really seem to make a difference, and also prove an aid in following the run of a striking fish as the eerie glow shows up for quite a distance.

Heavy mono leaders are used to ensure that sharks will cut themselves off. Actually that doesn't always happen. On my one night swordfishing venture, I caught two sharks. One small one simply couldn't chew through the tough mono. The other somehow got snagged in the pectoral fin. Surprisingly, however, if you stay in water over six hundred feet off the Florida coast you won't hook up with sharks very often. Because hooks pull out of swordfish mouths so easily, long drop-backs are necessary.

Night swordfishing in Florida has been so successful that they are now holding tournaments which result in a dock-load of fish. Quite a contrast to the usual northern tournaments where any fish caught is likely to take everything, as frequently none at all are caught. The most successful swordfish tournament held in our area during the past couple of decades was the Deep Sea Club event over the Fourth of July weekend in 1976. A total of six swordfish were taken (all in one day), and there was great jubilation about the return of this great fish to local waters. Without a doubt, there have been more swordfish in our waters during the past few years. With commercial pressure increasing due to ever higher prices, it's a situation that's not likely to last. Even if it did, the old "spot and bait" technique would never put a dent in the population. The only hope for making swordfish a game fish to interest the average angler is the development of the night swordfishing technique in our waters. With so many people talking about it now (and many boats coming up from Florida for the summer), it's inevitable that some real experimentation will be done this summer. The most important question to be answered is not "how," but "where?" There is little doubt that the system will work, but do we have to run out to the edge of the Continental Shelf to fish Gulf Stream waters just as is done in Florida? Down there, that's only a matter of a few miles; here it means an eighty to ninety mile run offshore, plus a longer run back if you're going to drift the Stream all night. On the other hand, swordfish are sighted on the surface in our waters from the edge of the Shelf. It seems unlikely that they'd swim all the way back offshore every night as they do in Baja California. Do they feed at night in the same waters they surface in during the day? Just one more question that begs for answers that will only come from experimentation.

Are swordfish really worth all this trouble? Certainly if you're counting dollars, they are. At $3 a pound, Florida long-liners have been making a fortune this spring. With a relatively high success ratio, even rod and reel fishermen have been making out pretty well. However, for the angler, the real attraction is the opportunity to catch one of the world's great game fish without selling your wife and kids into slavery in order to finance the quest.

Though swords are usually overwhelmed on eighty pound gear, I'd like to put in a word for them as a powerful and intelligent adversary. Though I never could afford to fish for swordfish deliberately, I did hook one accidentally (on a trolled balao) while striped marlin fishing off Salinas, Ecuador. The fish hit my heaviest rig, but that was only a thirty pound outfit. We estimated him at 400-500 pounds, and he was a sure world record in the thirty pound class if I could boat him. Try I did—for twelve-and-a-half hours, before something cut my line at night! Other billfish would have worn themselves out and eventually submitted to the light tackle; however, this swordfish paced himself nicely, even playing dead for fifteen minutes during the middle of the fight. Needless to say, I've got a score to settle—though the fish I lost surely deserved his freedom!

While I hope that we'll be seeing surfacing swordfish off Shinnecock right on schedule around mid-June, and that many anglers will be successful in catching them at night, this period of relative abundance is no time to forget about conservation. The swordfish is under ever-increasing pressure of the same sort that drastically effected the population levels in the Sixties. An increasing number of very small fish are being taken on the

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This large swordfish was taken on rod and reel last summer aboard the private boat "Ronnie's Too" out of the Star Island Yacht Club, where many of the offshore sharp-shooters like Archie Jost, left, and the boat's owner Ronnie, right, berth their boats. Henry "GF" Colombi, owner of Montauk's largest marina, is in the center firmly grasping the fish's bill to prevent it from swinging and possibly causing irreversible damage to the trophy sword.

Photo by Ian Hunt, Dockmaster, Star Island Yacht Club.

RIGGING A BAIT FOR MARLIN TROLLING

by Barbara Sands

Trolling can be one of the most effective ways to catch fish because this technique covers the widest expanse of water in the shortest possible time, and because it affords the opportunity to present a natural bait in an appetizing manner. Every bait is different in its own special way.

The trolling eel has long been a favorite of white marlin anglers along the northeast Atlantic Coast, yet scientists tell us that the eel is not a part of the marlin's normal diet. In fact, no one has ever reported a marlin with an eel in its stomach. The important aspect, however, is that marlin often show a marked preference for this rigged bait and any veteran fisherman will cite example after example of how a white marlin ignored other baits to charge an eel.

It's an easy bait to rig and an easy bait to store. The one disadvantage is that you could experience some difficulty in hooking a fish with an eel. There are some anglers who swear by it and seldom have trouble burying the barb. Others say that the eel attracts fish, but they prefer to hook their quarry on another bait. This becomes a matter of personal preference, but no one will tell you that an eel doesn't raise fish. In setting the hook, there are two theories. Some anglers will follow the normal drop-back procedure. Others will fish the eel from a flat line and use it to tease a fish. They keep pulling the eel away from the marlin until the fish becomes excited and tries to swallow it; then, they drop the rod tip and set right away. If they miss the fish, they go back to teasing and try again.

Very few offshore fishermen take the time to catch their own eels or buy live ones. If you do, the best method of handling them is to starve the eels for three or four weeks. Then place them in a can or bucket and pour in a substantial amount of coarse grained salt. The salt not only kills them quickly, but it helps to de-slime them. The balance of the slime can be removed with steel wool and this also helps to produce the blue color that is attractive to game fish.

Chances are, however, that the eels will already be frozen. The bait must be selected carefully and studied for freezer burns. There should be a liberal amount of salt in the package. It is possible to refreeze an eel after a day's use by placing the eel in a plastic bag with plenty of coarse grained salt. Another storage method is to place the eel in a jar containing coarse grained salt and water (brine solution). The eel is one of the hardiest saltwater baits.

To rig an eel, the angler will need a hook, swivel, short length of wire, and a long bait-rigging needle. Many fishermen prefer a needle eye hook for the eel, because it doesn't cause a bulge, but a ringed eye can also be used. The trolling wire is attached to the hook with a Haywire Twist. The bend of the hook will seat in the anal opening of the eel. With the bend of the hook alongside the anal opening, measure the length of the wire carefully. A swivel must be attached to the other end of the wire and the forward eye of the swivel must sit directly in the mouth of the eel. The swivel is attached with another Haywire Twist. The bend of the hook is then opposite the anal opening of the eel and the forward eye of the swivel is alongside the eel's mouth. Then a long bait rigging needle is run into the anal opening of the eel, through the entire body cavity, and out the mouth. The forward eye of the swivel is then hung on the open ring of the bait rigging needle. The swivel, wire and hook must be pulled carefully through the body cavity of the eel until the eye of the swivel sits in the mouth of the eel. There will be just enough slack in the wire to seat the rear eye of the swivel in the mouth of the eel. Thread a bait sewing needle with some Dacron or other line and insert it through the lower jaw of the eel. The needle will pass through the lower jaw, the rear ring of the swivel, and out the upper jaw. The end of the sewing thread should be left loose below the lower jaw of the eel. Several wraps should be made around the head of the eel with the thread and then tied off with the loose end. The thread keeps the mouth of the eel closed around the swivel and also holds the swivel in place. This will make the bait troll better and it will prevent the bait from sliding when a fish hits it. The finished eel can be trolled with either a wire leader or a monofilament leader.

There is something about a squid that appeals to the majority of offshore species and particularly billfish and tuna. No one really knows what this magic ingredient is, but it works. Because the squid is a soft bait, it must be prepared carefully to prevent it from collapsing on the hook; yet this same softness makes it easier for a predator to swallow the bait and simplifies the angler's task of setting the hook. Billfish will frequently come right back to the squid if they missed it during the initial attack. Fresh water will destroy squid in an instant, causing it to soften and turn purplish. The main cause of this is melting ice in the cooler where the squid is kept. This can be prevented by wrapping the squid in plastic and laying a piece of burlap over the ice. Then place the carefully wrapped squid on top of the burlap. If squid has to be thawed quickly, never use fresh water. Instead, immerse the squid in a bucket of sea water. Once a bait thaws, it should be used within a couple of days. A squid can be kept frozen for long periods of time, but cannot be refrozen. A squid can be rigged using one hook or a pair of hooks in tandem. The key to rigging a squid is to secure it in such a way that it will not run up the leader when a fish strikes and it won't disintegrate or break apart after a couple of hours behind a boat. All that's needed to rig a squid is some stainless steel leader wire, a hook of the correct size for the species, and a small cork designed for bottom fishermen and available in most tackle shops.

The stainless steel leader is attached to the hook using a Haywire Twist followed by a Barrel Twist, leaving a tag end on the wire about a foot long. Slide the cork down the leader and then lay the bend of the hook alongside the eye of the squid and measure the distance to the tail. The cork will sit just inside the tail. Leave a short tag end to prevent the cork from sliding down toward the hook. Slip the other end of the wire leader under the collar of the squid and push it out through the tail. Make sure the wire passes through the center of the tail so that the squid will troll properly. Pull the entire length of leader through the tail of the squid until the small cork is seated. Make sure the squid maintains its shape. The bend of the hook should be lying just opposite the eye of the squid. Insert the point of the hook through the head of the squid. Once the hook is seated, the squid will straighten out. The most delicate part of the squid is the connection between the head and the body. The hook will hold the head in place and prevent it from coming loose. The cork is going to keep the squid from riding up on the leader wire or being pulled back around the hook. This is the only part that must be sewn.

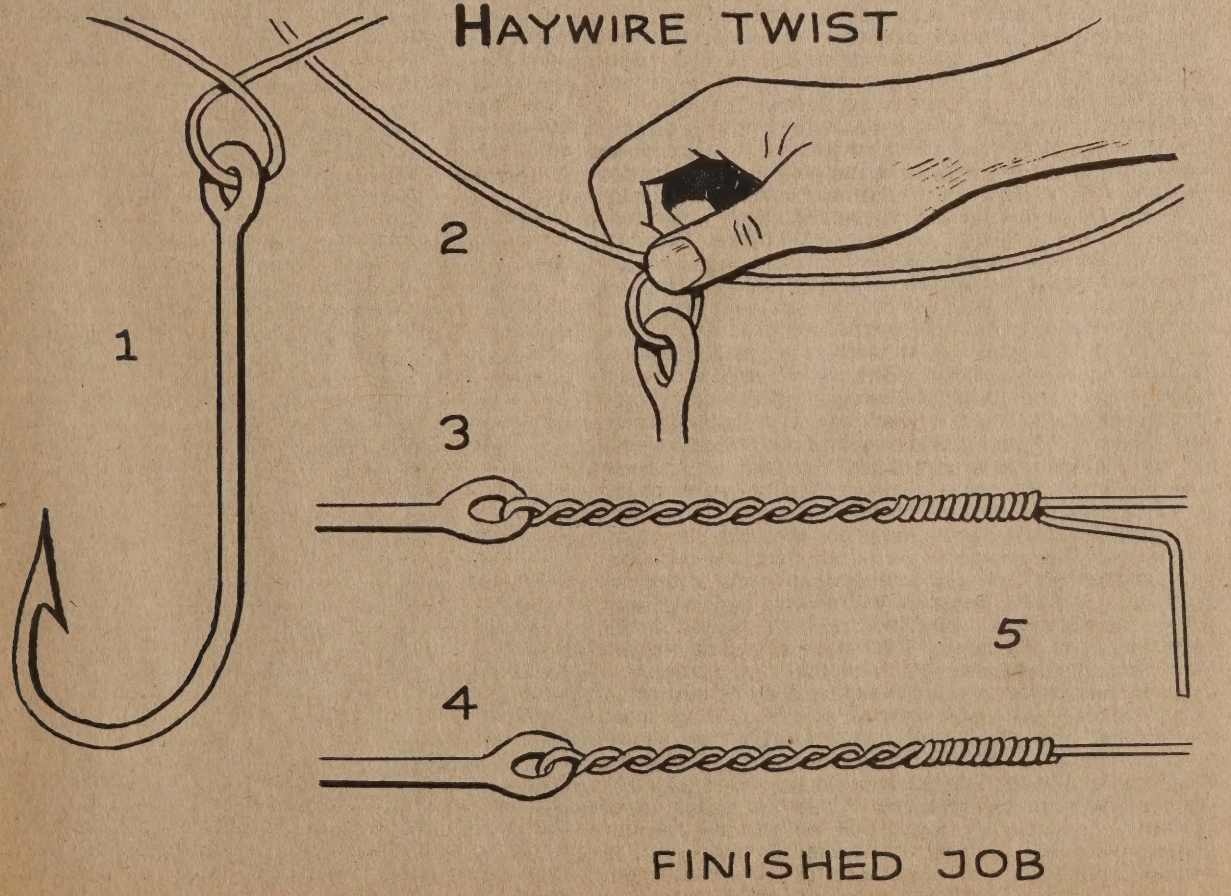
Use a regular bait sewing needle with some light, braided line and insert the needle in front of the cork and on one side of the wire. When the needle is pulled through on the first insertion, leave about four inches of braided line extending outside the squid. Proceed with a series of stitches forming an X on either side of the cork. This will help to keep the cork from sliding. The squid is now sewn around the cork and the tag end of the leader wire will keep the cork from sliding toward the hook. Wrap the remaining braided line tightly around the tail of the squid just in front of the cork. After four or five wraps, use the other end of the light line to tie off. Trim the ends off the light line after it's been tied securely. The completed squid makes an excellent trolling bait, and can be rigged fairly quickly.

Known almost everywhere as Ballyhoo, the balao is a product of warm, tropical seas. They travel in large schools and often make up the mainstay of a blue water specie's diet. They are available almost anywhere trolling baits are sold, and are by far the most popular offering. They range in size between a quarter and a half pound or more, but because they are thin fish, they are easy for a game fish to swallow. Balao can be purchased in packages and should be kept frozen until ready for use. Then, you should thaw out what you need in a bucket of sea water. There are a number of ways to rig balao, and all are good. The most common method is with a short length of copper wire fastened to the eye of the hook and wrapped around the head and bill of the balao; however, tiny rubber bands can also be used. It's important to find balao that are in good condition. If they were processed properly, there won't be any crystallization around the eyes, body or tail. Another thing to look for is coloration. Balao will have a blackish or dark blue back or perhaps even a green back. The color should be fairly vivid.

The hook should be prepared first. Make a Haywire Twist around the eye of the hook and after the barrel portion of the twist is completed, leave about an inch of the tag end extending upward. The tag end of the wire protrudes in the opposite direction from the bend and point of the hook. Lay the hook and leader alongside the balao and note the spot on the belly where the bend of the hook will seat. A scratch mark made with the hook point or a slit with a knife will help you find the exact spot when you push the hook through. To insert the hook, lift one gill plate and slide the point of the hook into the body cavity. The tag end of the wire extending above the barrel twist should be just forward of the balao's eye. Slide the eye of the hook under the gill plate and push the tag end of the wire through the upper jaw so that it protrudes about a quarter of an inch. It is critical that the hook be seated correctly so that the balao is in a perfectly flat position. Loop a small rubber band over the tag end of the wire and bring the other half of the rubber band under the chin of the balao. Then drop the other loop from the rubber band over the tag end of the wire. The rubber band is now looped around the tag end of the wire, which will keep the balao from separating from the trolling wire. Snap the bill of the balao off close to the jaw. This is a quick way to rig balao when it's important to get bait back into the water without any delay.

In recent years, anglers have learned that one of the most effective techniques for baiting big marlin is by slowly trolling a live bait. The bait is normally fished from an outrigger and the boat moves slowly over a reef or on the outside of schools of bait. The choice bait for this type of fishing is a live bonito. Unfortunately, bonito cannot live very long out of water and it is imperative that the rigging be done quickly. It must also be done in such a way that the fish is not impaired and will stay alive for long periods of time. Rigged bonito can sometimes stay alive during an entire day's fishing. The secret of rigging a live bait is to do it quickly.

The hook should be attached to the trolling leader with a swivel at the other end so that it can be snapped on the line quickly. Cut off about eighteen inches of Dacron



and secure the middle of it to the bend of the hook using a Clove Hitch knot. Pull the Clove Hitch tight so that it rests neatly at the bend of the hook. Thread one end of the Dacron through the eye of a bait sewing needle and the first part of the rig is done. The instant you land a live fish, insert the bait rigging needle through the top of the eye sockets just under the skull. Once the Dacron is passed through the top of the eye sockets, remove the bait rigging needle. Now tie two or three overhand knots and draw them tight. A little slack will remain so that the hook will fold back naturally when a game fish swallows the bait. Cut off the excess Dacron on the tag ends. The finished bait will stay alive for hours.

The strip bait is perhaps the most universal trolling bait in use now. It can be fashioned from almost any species of fish or you can make a strip bait out of a long length of pork rind. However, the strip bait should be made from the flank of an albacore, bonito, or small tuna because the sides have a silvery sheen that gives the bait an added appeal. However, it is well to keep in mind that you can cut a strip bait from practically any fish you catch. Normally, a strip bait is ten or twelve inches in length. It can be longer or shorter as the situation dictates, but the procedure for rigging one is the same. The typical strip is larger at the head of the bait than at the tail. It is best to trace out the shape on the flank of the fish you are going to use and then employ a sharp knife to cut this section. After you have the basic shape, the meat should be removed and the bait trimmed neatly into shape. A strip bait must be neat, or it won't catch many fish. Another way of making a strip bait is by filleting a small bait such as a mullet and splitting the tail for added effect. A very sharp knife is needed to make the bait neat. Start by making an incision across the side of the mullet just behind one pectoral fin, and work the knife carefully along the backbone. Tilt the knife about forty-five degrees with the blade pointing down as you approach the tail. Split the tail in half, and this will permit you to get two strip baits out of one single small fish. Trim the meat carefully, shape into a strip bait, and make sure no ragged edges remain. After you have attached the trolling wire to the hook with a Haywire Twist, cut about six inches of very heavy wire and slip one end through the eye of the hook. Then twist that end around the shank of the hook repeatedly. Finally, put two ninety degree bends in the tag end of this heavier wire protruding through the eye of the hook. The first bend will put the wire at right angles to the eye of the hook. Then bend the wire back so that it is parallel with the hook. Slip the tag end of the wire through the head of the strip bait about a half inch behind the head of the bait. Note that the wire should be inserted from the meat side to the skin side and not the other way around. Now twist the hook back parallel to the strip bait and insert the point of the hook from the meat side through the skin side. The point of the hook will protrude on the skin side of the bait. Make sure that when the hook is inserted, the bait is not pulled or twisted. It must lay perfectly flat with the hook in position, otherwise the bait will spin and twist in the water. The hook protrudes on the skin side and so does the tag end of the wire. Trolling will not damage the bait and it will remain in that position until a fish strikes it. For variation and extra appeal, trolling feathers, plastic skirts, or any other type of lure can be slipped down the wire and over the top of the strip bait.

A live bait is generally better for big fish; but there are many instances when live bait is unobtainable or the situation demands a faster trolling speed than might be suitable for live bait. The answer is a whole dead bait and for big marlin, anglers have been known to employ dead baits that weigh in excess of a dozen pounds. The type of dead fish trolled depends on availability, but bonito or small tuna make an excellent fare because of the shiny coloration on their sides that produces a good flash underwater. If you are going to troll a whole bait with a great deal of water resistance, your tackle must be stout enough to withstand this pressure. The bait fish should be fresh and without any mutilation. Old Dacron trolling line in either fifty or eighty pound test makes ideal sewing material. Thread a length of this line through the eye of a bait sewing needle. Insert the needle through one cheek of the bait fish (forward of the gill cover) and push the needle all the way through until it emerges from the other cheek. Then pull the thread through until only about four inches remains on the side you inserted the needle. Loop the sewing line under the bait fish and tie it to the standing part with a series of overhand knots. This will keep the gill plates secured so that they won't flare while the fish is being trolled. Trim the tag end of the Dacron near the knot, but leave the standing part attached to the bait rigging needle. After you have tied off the gills, insert the needle through the lower jaw and out the upper jaw. This first stitch should be on one side of the jaw. As you look directly at the mouth of the fish, the first stitch is made on the right side. Pull the needle through and pull the Dacron tight, closing the mouth of the fish. Then as you face the fish, make a similar stitch on the left side of the jaws, starting the needle from the bottom and working it out the top. Make the final stitch through the center of the jaw and pull it tight. Without removing the Dacron from the bait sewing needle, make a clove hitch around the bend of the hook about an inch or so in front of the fish. Now take a second stitch through the center of the jaw, parallel to and against the first stitch. This will produce a trolling loop through the nose of the fish and back to the hook. One piece of Dacron will extend from under the lower jaw to the hook and two pieces from the top of the upper jaw to the hook. Use a series of half hitches or a similar knot to secure the Dacron to the hook. Then trim the Dacron so that the knot is neat. Another way of knotting the Dacron is to tie it directly to another strand under the jaws. You can slip the needle under either the right or left-hand stitches and secure the Dacron with a series of loops or half hitches. The finished bait can be trolled for hours without any damage from the motion of the water.

Mullet is a prime trolling bait along the entire Atlantic Coast and throughout the Gulf of Mexico. Like the squid, mullet come in a variety of sizes, ranging from finger mullet that may not weigh more than a quarter pound to some hefty specimens that approach two pounds. The mullet you select should be large enough to attract your quarry, but small enough for a game fish to swallow easily. Some anglers prefer to troll mullet on more lines when the seas are choppy and they will also use a slightly larger bait under these conditions than when the seas are calm, since a fish has to see the bait first. Most mullet are pre-packaged by size and are already frozen when you receive them. It is possible to refreeze a mullet, but it is best to thaw only enough bait for immediate use. Any angler fortunate enough to get some fresh mullet should rig them right away and then freeze them already rigged up. Experts soak fresh mullet in a solution of ice water and coarse grained salt for a couple of hours before freezing.

A de-boner is needed to remove the backbone from the mullet. These are commercially available in most bait shops and are composed of two parts: a tube sharpened at one end and a plunger to push the backbone out of the tube when it has been removed from the mullet. Insert the tube under the gill plate; make certain that the end of the tube surrounds the backbone. Then, use a twisting motion and push the de-boner toward the tail of the mullet. Unless the entire backbone is removed, you'll have trouble making a mullet swim correctly. When the entire backbone is in the tube, remove the tube. Another way to accomplish the same objective is to cut a triangular shaped notch in the top of the mullet's head. Insert the de-boner at this point and remove the backbone. Once the backbone is removed, the mullet will swim or skip effectively. Use the plunger that comes with the de-boning tube to push the backbone out of the tube. Use an ice pick or other sharp pointed tool to punch a hole through the head of th e mullet just behind the mouth. This will make it easier to work the wire through. Without the pilot hole, it would be difficult to force the wire through the mullet's head.

Before inserting the hook, hold it alongside the mullet and measure the spot where the bend of the hook will pass through the belly of the mullet. To do this, hold the eye of the hook even with the forward part of the mullet's eye. Now take a sharp knife and make a slit at that point in the belly where the bend of the hook will rest. Once you make

he hole, squeeze the mullet to remove the innards. Removing the innards makes the bait fish swim better. Some captains insert the hook under a gill plate and work it back through the opening as shown. Others merely pass the eye of the hook through the belly slit and work the hook eye toward the mouth of the mullet. Move the hook back and forth slightly until the eye of the hook is under the hole you punched with an ice pick. The bend of the hook should be relatively loose in the belly slit. If it isn't, use a knife to enlarge the slit slightly. Take one end of the trolling wire and push it through the lower jaw, the eye of the hook, and out through the head of the mullet. Pull on the bend of the hook to make certain the wire passed through the hook eye. Bend the tag end of the wire (protruding from the mullet's head) around the standing part of the wire and make a Haywire Twist. Some anglers prefer to use a bait sewing needle and tie the gill plates closed, but this is not absolutely necessary. The finished mullet is a neat and simple bait.

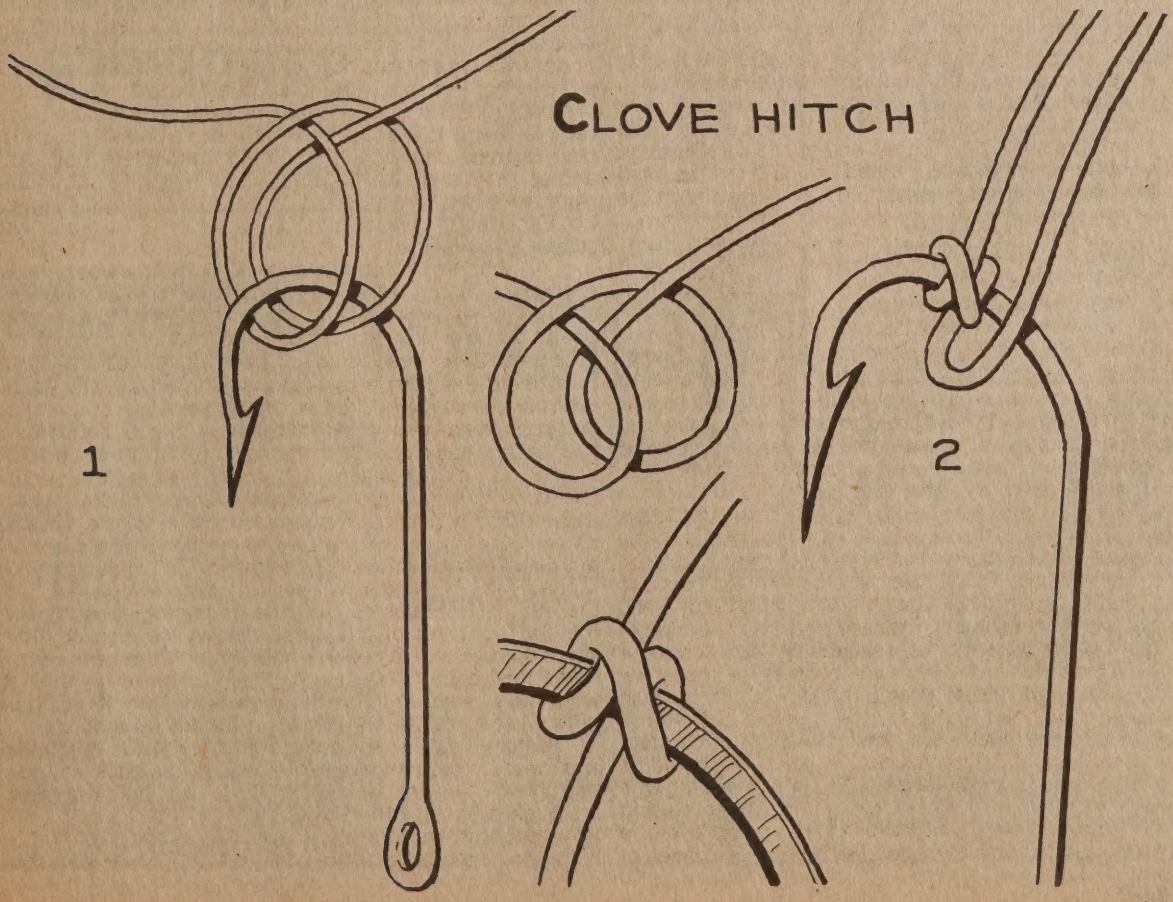
With the addition of a barrel sinker, you can modify the basic mullet rig. By locating the sinker under the lower jaw of the mullet as shown, the bait will swim under the surface of the water. Take the same sinker and place it on the nose of the mullet by slipping it over the tag end of the wire before making the Haywire Twist and the mullet will dig and dive in an erratic action. In this case, the gill plates of the mullet are tied in the closed position.

There is no rule that says that baits must remain at the same distance astern throughout the day. And there is nothing that dictates that you use the same baits all day long. Top fishermen will change baits frequently using different kinds of bait or simply another of the same kind. And when they change or even check a bait, they may stream it at a different length astern.

Blue water trolling is a science—until the fish is hooked, and then all bedlam breaks loose.

For a closer, more detailed look at bait rigging, there is no finer presentation of facts and photos than **How to Rig Baits for Trolling**, by Penn Reels, Professional Guide, Visual Data Book B-10.

Photo by Ian Hunt, Courtesy of Star Island Yacht Club



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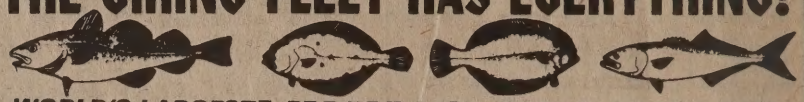

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It's old news by now, so we won't go into needless detail about the great white shark episodes that began when Capt. John Sweetman harpooned a monster last Friday. But to help clear the air of some of the ridiculous things you've been reading about in the news media, there is no doubt whatsoever that "Sweet John" did, in fact, harpoon a monster shark and anybody that can state to the news media that they thought the whole thing was a hoax should stop talking about things they have no knowledge of. This includes certain motel owners who should stay in the kitchen playing with hor d'oeuvres instead of making fools of themselves with the unknowledgeable mouths. For those other sceptics involved, the sighting of the shark did not coincide with the release of Jaws II. The release of Jaws II coincided with the natural migration path of the great white shark, which are always sighted predominantly in the month of June off the waters of Montauk Point.

Now for a little news about sport fishing. Striped bass fishing last week was excellent for those that trolled large plugs around Great Easter and the pollack rip at night. Several bass over 50 lbs. were taken, along with many 40s and all kinds of 30s. Striped bass fishing during the daylight hours however, has still been a tough pick with the boats really working for the fish they are catching. Catches of 5-10 bass per boat are being supplemented

Larry Buirillo of Flushing took the pool with this 6½-lb. fluke aboard the Marlin IV out of Montauk last week along with 3 other fluke.

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with numerous small bluefish that have moved into the area. Porgy fishing is excellent off Gardiner's Island, but the porgies have definitely begun moving into the area around the Point and should be worthwhile fishing for this weekend. Sea bass fishing is still slow and disappointing, in virtually all areas and the fluke fishing is off to a crawlingly slow start. Codfishing at Coxes Ledge is only rated as fair, while the offshore action for blue sharks has been terrific, with catches of 10 blue sharks and a few brown sharks common for a single day's expedition.

Capt. Bruce Hoek of the charter boat **Tara** reported that striped bass fishing under the full moon was fantastic Wednesday night, although the fish aren't being taken in big numbers, the quality of the fish is something else. Wednesday night's score was 8 bass that weighed in at 40, 35, 29, 29, 27, 20, 18 and 16. The action has been trolling large swimming plugs around Great Eastern. Capt. Bruce is running a 3 man charter boat specializing in night bass fishing, and he said he has a few open dates for the July full moon. See his ad in the Montauk section and give him a call. Bruce also runs half day trips during the day, diamond jigging for striped bass, bluefish and weakfish when they arrive.

Capt. Larry Rodriguez of the charter boat **Tiderunner** said that he had a banner day shark fishing Saturday in 200 ft. of water south of the point, a total of 10 blue sharks up

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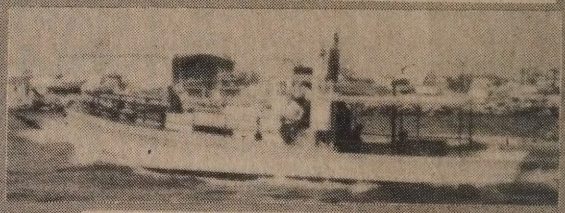

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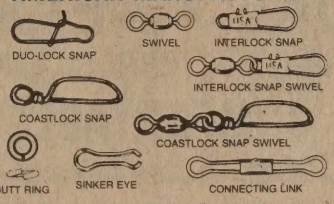

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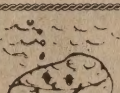
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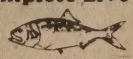
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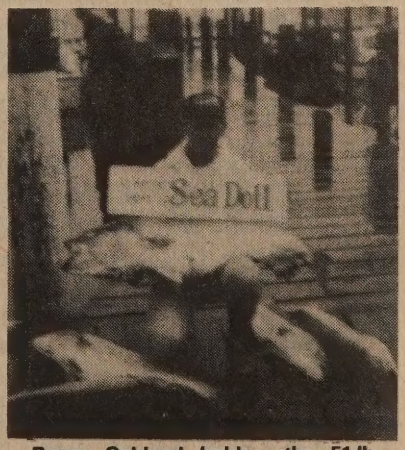

Roger Oakland holds the 51-lb. striped bass he caught on a night charter trolling plugs around Great Eastern aboard the Montauk charterboat *Sea Doll*. Four other bass were taken that ranged between 20 and 30 pounds.

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21 OPEN BOATS

16 CHARTER BOATS

"The Family Port!" Great South Bay

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★ALL BIG, COMFORTABLE BOATS!★

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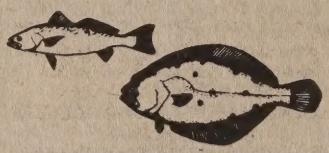

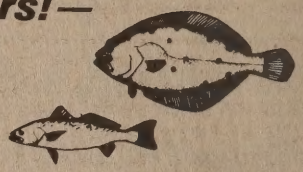

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CAPTREE QUEEN

—DAILY TRIPS—

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FREE ON ALL TRIPS:
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CLEAN 65' TWIN DIESEL
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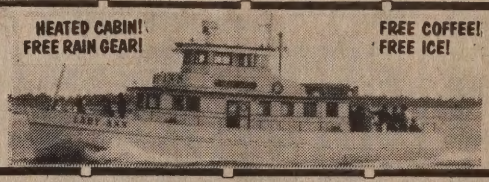

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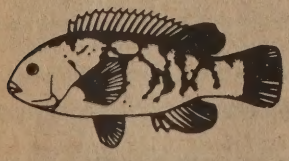

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Fire Island Fluke on the

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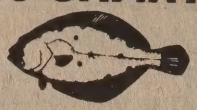
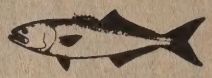


BLUES
FLUKE
WEAKS



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Blacks & Ling

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to 150 lbs., and two brown sharks were brought to gaff, and a large mako jumped clear of the water right at the boat.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fishing Fleet** reported that the bottom fishing seems to be going through a short period of the doldrums. The Coxes Ledge action has only been fair, with the cod being smaller fish with few hangers. No pollack being taken, but the fishermen aboard are having fun watching the whales, giant sunfish and schools of porpoises on the way to and from Coxes Ledge. The **Viking Starlite** has been doing very well porgy fishing off Gardiner's Island with some sea bass and blackfish mixed on. The **Viking Star** has been half-day fluke fishing

---

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with only fair results. But on Sunday, he boat came across a huge school of small bluefish while fluke fishing, so hey broke out the diamond jigs and caught quite a few of them. Paul said now that the bluefish have started to move into the area, the Viking Starship will start sailing at 7 PM every night for the big choppers starting July 1.

Capt. John DeMaio of the charter boat **Vivienne** reported that the bass fishing has had its ups and downs, but he has still been making catches of 13 nice fish in addition to small bluefish. John said that he caught his first weakfish of the year on a DeMaio jig during the week, hopefully a sign that the hordes of weakfish are about to make their debut in the Triangle. The striped bass have been hitting the DeMaio jig best, but started to show a preference in Ava-47 diamond jigs over the weekend. Umbrella rigs are still producing around the change of tide.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** reported that Capt. Andy Lovioto on his boat "Sundowners" had a real mixed bag one day when he took a 44 lb. striped bass, a 32 lb. pollack, several bluefish and whiting in the Submarine Buoy area. Most of the marina's many offshore fishing machines were plying the waters south of the point in search of the big GW. The boat "Sayfish" that you saw on television that had found and harpooned a shark on Saturday was out of the marina. Those using bait and chum for their sharks, like Capt. Pete Van Alst "Modar II" Capt. Larry Rodriguez' charter boat Tiderunner have been having double-digit catches of brown and blue sharks.

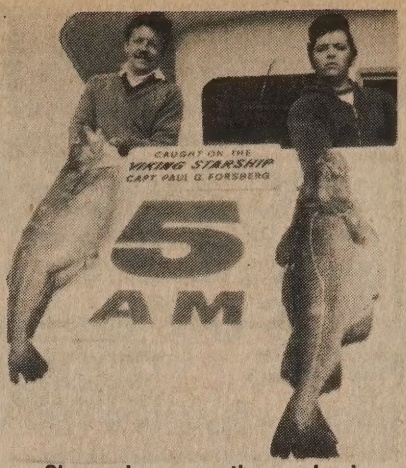
Capt. Richard Rade of the **Marlin IV** reported fluke fishing is fair and anglers are going home with 5-6 fish per man, but they really have to work hard at it. Best action has been in the North Rips, where a few nice sea bass are also being taken incidental to the fluke.

The Viking Skipper II reports that the porgie fishing is very good at Gardiners Island on clam. Bud says the porgie fishing looks like it will be like old times again, fish now up to 3½ lbs. On Sunday Phil Westbrook of Brooklyn was Hi-hook with 102 porgies. Other catches were in the 60's, 70's and 80's. Humpback seabass are also being landed. Bud says to remember his motto 'satisfaction with the porgy action". The porgies are in!

Capt. Phil Lewis on the charterboat **Adios** reports that on Thursday Richard Edelstein age 13 had 7 blue shark and one brown shark. Wednesday's charter had 20 pollack from 20-35 lbs fishing off SE Light on umbrellas. On Sunday a load of blues and 5 good bass were umbrellaed and jigged off Block Island.

Gone Fishing Marina reports that respectful catches of striped bass have been made this past weekend up to 22 bass per boat. Ron Onorato caught a 53 lb striper and Hugh Fitzpatrick caught a 54 lb striper at Great Eastern. Both these lunkers were taken on plugs trolled on wire at night. The weekend saw fluke coming in fairly decent quantities. The largest catch seen was 35 fluke taken by 2 men. This was sand eels and squid. Bluefish have arrived in Montauk with catches up to 55 per boat.

Sea Doll reports a lot of blue and Capt. Frank of the charterboat **Free Spirit** called to say that each of his trips from the 16th of June to the present has produced so far loads of blue shark, some brown shark and loads of aligator blues.



Shown here are the pool winners from a recent "Viking Starship" trip to Coxes Ledge. Kyru Phileppore of Brooklyn took a 54 lb. cod and Ron Spevack of New Jersey took a 50 lb. hake.

brown shark all over the place averaging 10-12 shark per boat on chum south of Montauk Point. The date of Sunday July 2nd is open on the **Sea Doll** and anyone wishing a charter for that date should call Capt. Gene Kelly without a moments delay, before the date is snapped up.

Capt. Frank has an additional number 668-9455 that he can be reached at.

Charterboat **Four Queens II** called to say that on Sunday he had 4 blue shark up to 150 lbs and one small brown shark around 30 lbs along with 40 big aligator bluefish working south of the point in 200' of water using bunker chum and mackerel.

Thirteen striped bass up to 38-lbs. for Richie, his son Steven and a friend. The fish were caught on John DeMaio's chr'trboat *Vivienne*.

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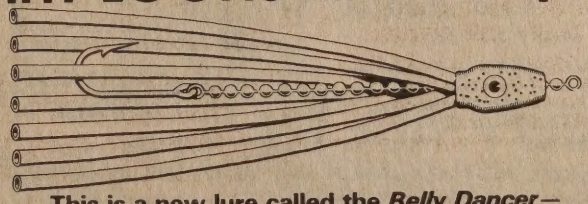

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The Shinnecock Anglers 14th nnual swordfish tournament will be eld out of Indian Cove Marina July , 2 and 3. For details and entry nformation, call 516-728-2800. A wordfish estimated at 400 lbs., was layed for 5½ hrs. on 30 lb. test line y angler Mark Silverman on Capt. red Havermayer's Hojo.

HAMPTON BAYS

Tony's Fishing Station reported nat the fluke fishing has been pretty ood on any moving tide off the Coast Guard Station around buoys 7 and 9, East Channel and also right in front of he station at buoy 21. The fluke are aking virtually any baitfish and squid ombo and all of the boats out on unday did very well. On Friday, Bob Woolsey on the "Why Knot" boated 40½ lb. striped bass on a live eel he vas fishing off Heady Creek just efore dawn. Tony said that they're till catching nice flounder at buoy 18 nd bluefish are being trolled in the nlet as well as offshore in 90 ft. of vater southeast of the inlet.

Corrs Fishing Station reports fluke ishing in Shinnicock Bay was very roductive this past week. Most boats ad from 15-25 keeper fluke with ome sharpies doint 35-40 fish. Weekday anglers enjoyed better ishing due to less boat activity. Sand els and squid work best. Best areas re est channel by the Shinnicock nlet and area from Ponquogue Bridge to the CG Station. Some early norning action being had on small lues 2-4 lbs at Cormorant Point and he middle of Shinnicock Bay.

MORICHES BAY

Silly Lilly Fishing Station tells us here has been good fluking all this ast week and weekend. Weekdays it vas best along the channel, while on he weekend best action was along he flats at the sandbar at buoy 39. Sand eels and squid combos or killie squid combos have been the ticket. Best catch Sunday was for Mr. Fujita nd son of Harrison NY with 21 keeper fluke at buoy 39 in 2' of water. Ramona says there are still flounders t buoy 36 at the drop off and also the drop off at buoy 39, on worms.

Al Lassen of the **Hi-Way Fishing Station** reported that there are plenty f fluke being taken on any moving ide drifting anywhere between buoy 36 to 44. Milton Imbey took a 10¾ lb. doormat on a squid and sand eel combo. Plenty of nice sized flounder being taken locally, just ask any of the station operators where to find them. Bluefish are being taken offshore in good numbers.

Ben at **Tadsen's Fishing Station** said they had beautiful fluke fishing Friday, but the action was down on the weekend. On Friday, one boat fishing in the west part of the Bay took 40 fluke, but had to throw back 15. One boat took 14 fluke off the Coast Guard Station and didn't have a throwback all day. Ben said the flounder are getting smaller, but there are still plenty around.

East Moriches Bait and Tackle reports that Steve Kominski had a 156 lb blue shark along with 8 others including 3 brown shark. This was in 170' of water SE of Moriches Inlet using mackerel and chum. Ed Schroeder bagged a 118 lb Mako

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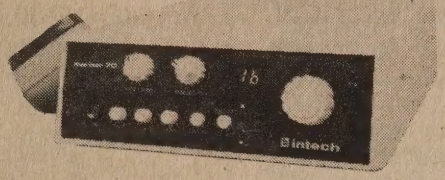

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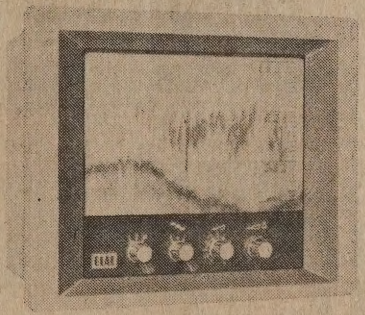

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Dan Denis, Sr., Dan Denis, Jr., and Al Denis, with 18 keeper fluke up to 3 lbs., taken between buoys 38 and 39 on sand eels and squid. Photo courtesy of L&M Marine.

aboard the Jo-Lyn in 160' of water SE of the Inlet. They also caught 15 blue shark and 4 brown shark. On Sunday Steve Kob insky boated 9 fluke on sandeels and squid in the West Cut. Fish ran up to 3½ lbs. He also took 6 fluke fishing buoy 36 on sandeels and squid. This was all in about 1½ hrs. Fluke are hitting best on the ebb on sandeels and squid. Stripers have picked up in the inlet and there are plenty of blues outside in 90' of water. The bass are looking for live eels and bunker. Umbrellas are accounting for bass and blues also.

Skidmore's Fishing Station reports that 27 2-3 lb. blues were jigged at the 40 ft. hole at buoy 42 this Monday, along with a few big porgies. The blues are definitely in Moriches Bay. Jack Berman, on the weekend, had a porgy that hit 3¾ lbs. Porgies are suckers for worm and clam. Very good fluking was had Monday through Friday, fish in the 2-2½ lb. category on spearing and sand eels at buoy 44. They seem to want the warm waters of the bays.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

MASTIC BEACH

Gary at **Stiriz's Fishing Station** tells of mainly fluke and blue activity with fluke being taken this past week from buoys 15-23 on killie/squid combos or sand eels or killies. The ebb worked best, catches better on weekdays due to boat traffic on the weekend. Blues in the hole off buoy 17 on all tides, these being 5 and 6 # class fish with a few weakfish mixed on squid/sand eel combos, all in the very early morning hours. Some blowfish at buoy 9 on clam and squid. Capt. Fred on the charterboat **Seamist** has been finding large concentrations of big bluefish in 100-160' of water while sharking.

State Channel Marina East reports some fluke between buoys 19 and 20 with fluke belly on the hook working best. A few small blues west of the bridge in grass flats on sandeels. **State Channel Marina East**, formerly Keenans Fishing Station, is now owned and operated by the O'Keefe family and they are bringing the station back into top form again with brand new engines as openers. **State State Channel Marina West** just off Oak Island will be serving boatmen fishing the FI area with every conceivable boating service and facility. Please see their ad in this issue for details.

SAYVILLE

Young's fishing Station reports excellent fluke at Pt. of Woods from Thursday on, sandeels and squid on the hook. Blues have been schooled up in the same area and are hitting good on anything. Schools of blues have been showing from Ocean Beach east to FI Pines. Blowfish at Nichols Point on clam and squid and worm and a few weakfish in Nicols bay and Ocean Beach on sandworms and Salty Dogs. Bob Gilette, on Saturday and two buddies had 14 blues fishing off the Pines late in the day. Fish hit Salty Dogs and ran 3-5 lbs. Clay Hardman and Company on Thursday had 12 keeper fluke fishing Pt. of Woods right off the ferry dock. Fish ran up to 27'' on sandeels. Sunday saw excellent catches of blowfish a few hundred feet off Nichols Point.

Jim at **South Bay Fishing Station** reports the fluking was off and on this past week. Jim says that however, 3 and 4 lb. weakfish started being taken in Middle Bay at buoys 28, 29 and 30 on salty dogs and squid. Still plenty of fluke if you concentrate on them at 28, 29 and 30 and buoy 13 at Ocean beach in any deep holes.

EAST ISLIP

Buoy II Sport Shop called to tell us that on Tues., Fred Golofaro had a 46 lb. 5 oz. striped bass fishing Fire Island Inlet using live bunker. Buddy Phil Holewinski followed up with an 18 lb. 14. oz. striper. On Saturday night, Bill Kern set a hook on a 49 lb. striper on a live eel fishing the inlet. Blues were at the lighthouse as were fluke and scattered weaks, fluke on sand eels and squid and blues on just about any bait or artificial.

BAY SHORE

Smokeys Bait & Tackle tells us that Jim Reed of Commack decked a 13 lb 8 oz weak fishing Ocean Beaches' buoy 11 and 12 on grape jelly worms on outgoing tide, Friday. Al Giglio bagged a 35 lb striper on live eel on Lou Sutton's ''Sting'' at the construction dock. Fluke in W. Channel, west of the bridge and in the inlet. A few bass on eels and weaks in the evening between the CG station and the old construction dock. Blues in the 2-4 lb range and weaks in the 2-3 lb range on umbrellas in front of the Lighthoust on the inside. Two - 4 lb blues at the Head buoy and 8 - 12 lbrs further offshore. Winners in the Bayshore Mako Tournament held this past weekend are as follows: In the Mako shark category, 1st place -338½ lb Mako for Phil Bruckner of West Islip on the boat Pompano. 2nd place - 313 lb Mako for Howie Stanfield of Sayville on Ronnies Too. 3rd place - 300 lb Mako for Phil Rainish of Babylon on the Elizfar. Winners in the bluefish Division were: 1st place 201 lb blue shark for Fred Kamerer of Babylon on Smallfry. 2nd place 190 lb blue shark for George Grebe of Babylon on the Pomponel. 3rd place- 187 lb blueshark for Gray McCord of Lincoln Park,, MI aboard the **Pompano.**

Capt. Niel of the **Casey Lee** reports fluke have been fair to good last week. Friday say an average of 3-10 fluke per man and the weekend 2-5 fluke per man. Fish are spread over a wide area from the inlet to west channel and Ocean Beach with killies and sandeels and squid best.

CAPTREE

Charterboat **Lady Ann** called to tell us fluke are fair to good from the Inlet to Ocean Beach on killies, sandeels and squid. Seabass are on the Ocean Reef, but it takes a lot of drops to fill the sacks.

BABYLON

Augies Bait & Tackle tells us of a 140 lb 8 oz Thresher Shark taken on a bluefish hook by Jim Denning of Setauket on Saturday. The brute was landed in just under 2 hrs. Fluke has picked up a lot during the week to the tune of 10-12 flatties per man in Snake Hill and Dickerson's Channels

Tom and Andrea Conn of Bay Shore with their catch of nice fluke taken aboard the Bay Shore open boat ''Casey Lee.''

in the flats. Action a little slow in the inlet. Stripers in the inlet to 36 lbs on eels and live bunker. Dolores has been weighing in fish all week long. A lot of small blues at Kismet and off the Lighthoust on umbrellas, tubes, Hopkins and Ava jigs. A 338 lb Mako was weighed in for Phil Bruckner who fished the Bayshore Mako Tournament.

Bill at **Babylon Fishing station** reports that the hole in front of the lighthouse has been producing tide runner weakfish in the 10 lb range and loads of blues for live liners and for those dragging umbrellas and jigging with bucktails. On Friday Snake Hill Channel produced good fluke action, 12-14 per man, fish in the 18-19'' category on killie/squid combos and sand eel combos. Action was best between the Lighthouse and the CG Station. W. Channel also produced. Offshore has been heavy on big bluefish from 70' of water on out while sharking. A lot of Makos came in for the weekend contest including a 125 lbr and a 323 lbr which were brought in 10 minutes after the tourny ended. Lots of blue sharks taken too. Lots of blues for those after them offshore.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

LINDENHURST

Charlies Bait and Tackle reports loads of blues at the inlet on umbrellas with red or white tubes and also Comanche tackles banana splits in white. Fluke in the State Channel on killie, squid and sandeels. Fish are mixed sizes with lots of 2 and 3 lbrs being caught. An 11 lbr was weighed in taken from the State Channel by Lindenhurst John Lockey. Loads of blackfish presently taking fiddlers and green crabs on the Kismet artificial reef. Stripers have been picky though a few have been taken on live eels and small Rebels. Mostly at the Sore Thumb and under the Robt. Mosses bridge. Good sharking offshore with about 70 shark taken in the Bay Shore Mako on Saturday alone.

COPIAGUE

Larry at **Bait and Tackle Unlimited** tells us fluking has been fair in the inlet and good in the state channel from the Amityville Cut to the Draw bridge on killies, squid and sandeel. The Copiague Hole and the bay side of the Amityville Cut have been producing also. Still a lot of small blues in the bay on bucktails and on squid with large blues close in at the lighthouse and off the inlet. From 65-125' of water those working umbrellas and chumming are also getting good catches of bluefish. Democratic Point is producing some bass along with St. Channel at Gilgo and at the Mosses Bridge on eels and bellies. Seabass and porgies at the Kismet Reef on clam and sandworm. Blackfish at the Meadowbrook Bridge on sandworms.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle reports fluke improving in Jones Inlet and fair in Fl Inlet. Squid, sandeels and killies are your best bait bet. Plenty of blues at Fl Inlet from the Bell buoy out on wire or on chunk blat or on chum. Bigger fish are in 80-120' of water, chummed or trolled. Bass in the State Channel from Zacks Bay to Tobay, live lined or on bellies. A 51 lb bass was caught at Cedar Beach on an artificial eel by one un-named customer this past week. Sharking is good offshore with a white marlin raised in one slick.

SEAFORD

Big Ed at **Shore Isle Marina** gave us the winners of his fluke tournament as follows: Charlie Koabel taking 1st prize with a 2 lb 2½ oz fluke. Jerry Packard took 2nd place with a 2 lbr, and George Kupces took 3rd place with a 1lb 13 oz fluke. Tom Wenkes and 2 pals bagged 125 blues fishing out of Jones in 55' of water with umbrellas. Ed weighed in a 24 lb striper for Ed Zack, taken at the third Wantagh bridge on clam chum. The boat Chopbuster had 5 stripers between 30-40 lbs on bellies in the same area this past week. Ed weighed in an 85 lb Mako on Saturday. Ed Curtis of the Merrick Rod and Gun Club brought in an 85 lb blue shark. Ed has asked us to let you know that he has a 600 lb scale available at his dock for your use so feel free.

Naomi Fishing Station reports a 27 lb striper taken under the second Wantagh on live bunker Tues. night by Scott Gregary, local basshound. Jim Tuozzo and son Tony and pal Stan Jamison boated 5 bass, 2 runts and 3 30 lbrs on clam bellies working a drain at the side of the state channel at Gilgo in the late morning. Best fluke now at 4 corners on killies, sandeels and squid.

MERRICK

Roy at **Merrick Marine Tackle** tells us fluking has been fair this past week in Swift Creek and in Jones Inlet on sand eels, squid and killies. Bass are being taken by those putting in the hours on bunker and on bellies. Roy asks us to let you know that sometime during the week of July 10, **Lew Childre** and Company and his ''traveling van'' will be at Merrick Marine Tackle for demonstrations, exhibitions, etc. Call Roy or Scott for the exact date and time. Shark in the deep water to the east of the inlet. A 6 lb. blackfish was taken on a fly rod by a member of the Salty Flyrodders on a streamer fly at Lloyd's Neck.

Nick's Fishing Station reports a couple of big fluke caught by their skiffs on Friday. Anthony Colombo of Hicksville boated a 9 lb. 14 oz. fluke fishing Haunts Creek on killies. Ed Pretakewicz of Flushing followed through with a 8 lb. 15 oz. fluke also caught on killies. Merrick Pt., Neds Creek and Broad Creek were the areas producing best on fluke over the weekend. Jimmy weighed in some bass Saturday, with the largest fish being 35½ lbs. caught by Marty Bright of Bellmore, using live bunker, fishing the second Wantagh bridge. George Zipper of Bellmore caught a 30 lb. and a 22 lb. bass in the State Channel east of the Wantagh Bridge using live bunker. Dennis Newman of Bellmore got his hooks into a 33 and a 20 lbs. bass while clam chumming in the state boat channel.

BALDWIN

Arthur St. Marina reports that Joe McKeefrey and John on his boat Fox, trolled up bluefish on Sunday fishing umbrellas due south of Jones Inlet. Fluke are being taken in fair quantities at the juncture of Reynolds Channel and Long Creek on squid and killies.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

FREEPORT

The Starstream II reports 8-20 fish per man mostly ling and seabass with an occassional cod, pollack or blue. The boat is putting in long days and making many drops to assure good catches. Richie is fishing anywhere from 60-120' of water. A 9 lb cod took the pool Sunday.

The Captain Hall reports very good fluking all week long in the inlet, Reynolds Channel and local creeks and channels. Every day the pool went to fish running 4-5 lbs.

Charterboat **Nite Owl** called to tell us he bagged a 165 lb Mako for Ted Urban of the New York Athletic Club on Saturday, fishing in the Bay Shore Mako Tournament. This was 42 miles off the beach and Joe thinks he had a possible 6th place.

Charterboat **Sea Hawk** called and reported that Monday's trip for John Vedilago saw catches of 6-8 lb blues south of the tower in 65-100' of water

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on umbrellas and 300' of wire. In the afternoon they had some fluke in the inlet on the flood, sandeels and squid on the hook. Thursday's charter for Arthur Goldstein and buddy saw them fluking in Cinder Creek, Reynolds Channel and the inlet for a fair catch of fluke. There was a 50 percent keeper ratio. Saturday's shark charter, Dennis described as super for Jim Butler, Jerry Dennis, Cal Ulshafer, Hawk Hartman and Lynn Mann all of Allentown Pa. They had 11 shark to the boat including a 76 and 45 lb Mako, a 45 lb blue and other brown and blue sharks up to 100 lbs each. All but the makos were released. This is something more shark fishermen should do. A big mako of approximately 300 lbs was lost at the boat and Capt. Dennis has the tearful details if you care to call him and find them out. This action was 7 mi. south of the Ha in 150' of water. Sunday's trip was to the same place for a catch of several blue and duskie sharks in the 60 lb range and a bucket full of bluefish in the afternoon.

Dock Master Bob Kay at the **Freeport Boatmen's Association** tells us it's all fluke and blues. All week boats chartered for fluke did a respectable job fishing local waters, though things were a little tougher on Sat. and Sun. due to heavy boat traffic. Those that sharked or went for

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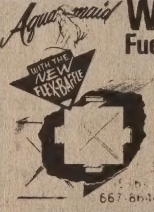

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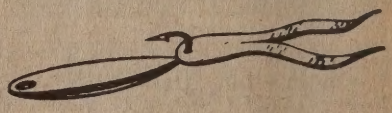

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Frank, Leon, Dink, John, Louie and Bob, with part of a good catch of blues from 4 to 13 lbs., taken aboard Capt. Mike Miller's charter boat "Apus" out of Freeport.

blues returned with blues, though they had to go far out to catch them. Capt. Schultz on the **Fisherman** had one of his charters on the rod for 3½ hrs. with 50 lb. test line and they bagged a 286 lb. mako fishing five miles E/S/E of the HA Buoy. All boats did well.

The Capt. Al reports good strong catches of sea bass and big ling fishing local wrecks, rocks and secret spots.

The Aloma II reports that their daily and afternoon fluke trips are producing nice catches in both local creeks and in Jones Inlet, along with critically-timed runs over to Debs Inlet.

Anthony's Fishing Station tells of good fluking at the Short Beach CG Station and in Swift Creek the weekend's top fluke for their rental boats was a fluke weighing 3 lb. 15 ozs. Howard Segal, Jack Lash and son Steve and Eric, mohawked 64 flounder fishing Long Creek Sunday on incoming water using worms and clam.

Charter boat **Jackpot** called to tell us that Friday he trolled up a dozen big blues fishing southeast of Jones Tower in about 90 feet of water. On Saturday, fishing SE of the HA, he trolled up 14 chopper blues for Donna Minerva and friends. Sunday's charter of two adults and a 4 yr. old went home with 10 chopper blues, trolling SE of Jones tower in about 100 ft. of water.

Charterboat **Blue Fin II** called to tell us that fluking has been fair all week and weekend on either tide right after the change. On the slack Capt. Sy has been to the tip of the jetty where the water is constantly moving. Sandeels and strip baits seems to be working best for him. The biggest fish caught on the **Blue Fin Fleet** for the weekend was for Don Bye of the 1400 Club of Staten Island with a fluke just under 5 lbs.

Capt. Pat of the **Lady J** advises that his charterboat, just re-powered and out of the shipyard is now booking for the season and that his weekend trip for a charter bagged 15 big blues in the 11 lb range fishing 5 miles east of the HA with shark in mind but blues smashing baits. This was 150 degrees out of the inlet in 150' of water. Chunk bait and whole butterfish drove the choppers into a frenzie.

Charterboat **Ivory Queen** called to tell us that Monday's charter for Dan Barra of Lynbrook and buddies netted 28 keeper fluke to 4 lbs for a half day fluke trip. This was between the Meadowbrook Bridge and Jones Inlet on fluke belly and on killies. Tuesday's charter for Al Kramer and party ended up with 63 bluefish in the 10-12 lb class and 5 duskies in the 50 lb class all on 15# bait casting outfits. This was 150 degrees out in 150' of water.

The Captain Lou II reports fantastic fishing throughout the week. On Monday the boat had 97 fluke up to 8½ lbs on sandeels, killies, spearing and squid in the inlet. Over the weekend things were a little slower due to the heavy mosquito fleet traffic, but action was still good with fish up to 6 lbs. Mike says it looks like a very productive fluke year. The afternoon fluke trips have been producing also.

Miss Freeport reports excellent morning trips for the fluke and a good pick on the afternoon trips all week fishing local spots with sand eels, killie and squid. Saturday's fluke charter, arranged by Bob Riverd Tavern. Hi-hook was 18 fluke. Sunday's charter for the New Hyde Park Fire Dept. saw fluke up to 4 lbs come aboard fishing Jones Inlet.

Charterboat **Capt. Joe**, called to tell us that Tony Tosano and friend of Ozone Park loaded up with blues up to 10 lbs south of Jones Beach tower in 60' of water on Sunday trolling, jigging and chumming. Tony was hi-hook with 14 blues.

Charterboat **Apus** reports that on Thursday's shark fishing SE of Jones Inlet in 145' of water. The bluefishing was very good as was the sharking. Sunday's trip from Publishers• Clearing House bagged 2 100 lb blue shark and some bluefish up to 15 lbs fishing 250' of water, 185 degrees and are taking sand eels and squid. Rich Ruzicka of Astoria caught 10 fluke up to 5 lbs. fishing right in front of the Station. Flounder running over 2 lbs., are being taken at the Coast Guard station and in Middle Bay. Blackfish can be found at the Meadow Brook Bridge and at the T-wreck. Bluefish have been plentiful in 50-60 ft of water southeast of the Tower. These fish are being taken on trolled tubes. Bass up to 50 lbs., are being taken off Gilgo Beach.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports that fluke fishing has been good in Reynold's Channel from the inlet west to buoy 20. These fish are nice sized

ISLAND PARK

Beckmann's Tackle reports that fluke fishing has been good in Reynold's Channel west to Debs Inlet. Catches of 10-30 fluke per person are being taken on sand eels and squid. Vinnie Calabro of Rockaway took an 18½ lb. striped bass from the surf on a Gibbs Pencil Popper. Towards the end of last week, nice catches of bluefish were taken at the Silver Point Jetty. These fish ran from 4-10 lbs. and hit Bingle Dandy Tails, Hopkins and Kastmasters. The bluefish were feeding on sand eels and average catches of 20-35 fish per person were common. A 5 lb. bass was mixed in with these catches. Bill Tinyes and son, Joseph, fished the Atlantic Bridge with grass shrimp and took bass from keeper size to 22 lbs. These fish can also be taken on clams, eels and sandworms.

Capt. Clem of the **Commodore** tells us that fluking Mon-Fri was very good in E. Rockaway Inlet and Reynolds Channel. On the weekend a lot of private boats made him try offshore, but then he also fished Reynolds Channel, E. Rockaway Inlet and the Bay. The back bays of Reynolds were very productive yielding a 5¾ lb pool fish in 9' of water for Tom Sprigman of Ridgewood who had 16 additional keeper fluke. Most fish taken were 2-2½ lbs and ⅔'s of all fish hooked were keepers. These were days when even novices had 6-8 keepers. Marie Taska of Flushing had 18 keeper fluke and Gene Martin of Greenwich Village walked off with 16 keepers. Sunday saw over 300 keepers on the boat. Clem says he is now starting to see fish West of East Rockaway Inlet also.

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CAMPER—MOBILE TRAILER. All aluminum, weighs only 1800 lbs., over cab. Sleeps six; refrigerator, stove w/oven, 2 basin sink, hot water heater, thermostat control heat. Full rest room facilities, including shower & extras. $3000. Call Days: 516-725-4200. Evenings: 516-728-3580.

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great fluke fishing in the Inlet and in Reynold's Channel at buoys 3, 5 and 7. Catches as high as 30-40 fluke per person were taken. Blues from 2-14 lbs. are being taken on and off along the beaches. These fish are being trolled on umbrellas. Bluefish are also being taken off Cholera on butterfish or mackerel with chum. Bass up to 50 lbs. are bunker chunked along the beaches. Over the weekend, 192 lb. mako was taken at the HA Buoy.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reports that the North Channel bridge is producing blackfish up to 6 lbs. on fiddler crabs. Nice sized bluefish are being taken at the bridge on bunker strips. A few small porgies and some nice sized fluke are also being taken here. The Marine Parkway Bridge is producing similar catches of blackfish, blues and fluke.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt. Kevin of the **Dorothy B** reports that on Wednesday, Nat Itzkowitz of Bensonhurst bagged a 9½ lb fluke, the daily pool and the weekly pool, fishing a big smelt. In general fluking has been very good all week long and they are fishing the Long Branch area averaging 8-12 keeper fluke per man. The 5 pm afternoon trips are producing also but the days are best. Capt. was running the boat when Nat got his big fish.

Capt. Walter of the **Flamingo III** reports 3-5 lb blues with some 10-14 lbrs thrown in being caught in good numbers Monday thru Thursday, bananas for the bigger fish and jigs for the smaller. Action dropped Fri, and Sat. due to the weather and all the private boats. On Sunday they caught good later in the day running down to the Highlands, Seabright and Asbury Park where the fish are feeding on false spearing. Lots of blues in the Mud Hole, the HA area, but the boats are really not catching as many fish as they are seeing and marking. Moon? Water temperature? Walter says there are an awful lot of

Phil Grayer, Bill McGan, and Lori Matney with bluefish from 12 to 15 lbs., taken at Norton's Point on white Lupo Baby Bunker Spoons aboard the "Kim."

fish stacked up in the NY Bight and that it is a really healthy looking ocean and once all the fish there go on a heavy feed, they'll be biting the bottoms out of the boats.

Capt. Joe on the **Blue Sea III** reports excellent fluking off Long Branch and Seabright with 2-5 lb fluke common. Joe says this season is better than any prior season he can remember. Best baits are sandeels and spearing. Poolfish are running 4-6 lbs on a daily basis. The boat will be bluefishing Friday and Saturday nights and it is limited to one side fishing only.

The Pilot II reports seabass catches very good, followed closely by catches of blackfish. Tom is working the Jersey coast. Fish are mixed sizes.

The Elsie K III reports that the fluke fishing is very good and holding strong, fishing the Seabright area of Jersey. Fish are averaging 2-6 lbs. Sunday's pool winner was a 5 lb 11 oz fluke. Best catches are on sand eels and killies.

The maiden voyage of the brand new open boat **Travler** will be on Saturday, July 1st. Capt. Jerry Nappi, formerly of the Capt. Red, will be waiting to wisk you out to where the fish

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are waiting. They will be starting off with seabass and blacks 7 am daily and night blues 7 pm daily except Sundays. Watch their ad in the Fisherman for their several upcoming tile trips.

The Atomic II reports very good catches of fluke every day fishing off Jersey and Capt. asks us to remind you that he's bluefishing every night except Sunday nights. See ad for details.

Neil at **Stella Maris Bait and Tackle** reports that Ed Grant on Sun., fishing on the Cuckoo's Nest, 10 mi. south of the BA, chummed up a 175 lb. mako, whipping the monster in 2½ hrs. Very good fluking on sand eels and squid off Manhattan Beach, Jetty and the Marine Parkway Bridge. Sand worms are accounting for night bass at the Marine Park Bridge.

Charter boat **Babe** had a 6-man group from Allan Goldberg and Company fishing south of the Long Branch, NJ pier, decking roughly 60 keeper fluke on spearing and sand eels along with squid strips. On the way back, they caught 11 blues jigging at the Highlands, averaging 3-4 lbs. per fish. The weekend weather made for beautiful fishing.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports that a steady pick of bass can be found at Cliff Street, Ft. Wadsworth and Penny Beach. Sal Spurge took a 24 lb. bass fishing Cliff Street with a Danny Swimmer and Paul Caltabellotta took a 22 lb. bass in the same area on an Atom Swimmer. Most of the bass being taken from the VZ bridge area are hitting plugs from outgoing tide to low. Bluefish averaging 8-10 lbs. are being taken from Ft. Wadsworth to Princess Bay. Fish from 3-5 lbs. and up to 10, are being taken from Glover Street to Richmond Avenue on Poppers of the ½ to 1 oz. size. Fluke fishing has been excellent from Ft. Wadsworth to Princess Bay. These fish are averaging 4-5 lbs. and are taking squid and sand eel combos, spearing and killies. Boaters are taking bluefish from 5-10 lbs. and up to 15 Princess Bay on Bingle Lancers and Lupo or Montauk Spoons.

Bob Luthmann called to tell us that Great Kills Harbor off the bulkhead has been producing bluefish up to 12 lbs on butters and bunker. Dean Lindsey caught a 12 lbr using butters on Sunday. Fluke are all over the lower and Raritan Bay on killies and squid.

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PORGIES

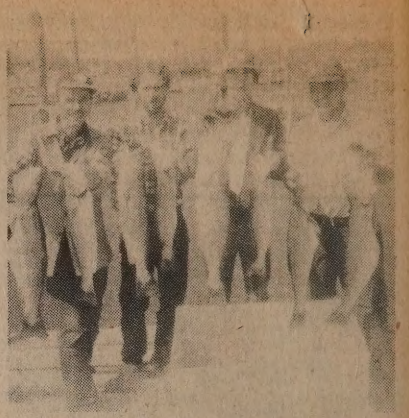
GREENPORT

The Wilhelric reports porgy action has breatly improved and it looks like real good old porgy time is coming soon. Ben Brody and Phil Gusbrook of Brooklyn had 73 porgies between them, fish up to 3 lbs. Starting July 1st, the boat will start sailing at 6 am daily.

A. P. White Bait Shop reports fluke fishing has been good at Gardiner's Island, with fish from keeper size to 8 lbs. being taken on sand eels, squid and shiners. Porgy fishing has been excellent on the east side of Gardiner's Island. The **Brand X** has been doing an excellent job on these fish. A surf caster took a 45 lb. striped bass in the Sound off Greenport on a plug. The bass fishing has been on and off, but on the average, the fishing has been good. Weakfishing has been good in the Bay and blackfish can still be taken in the Sound.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt reported the weakfishing has slowed down. Porgy fishing, however, is good at Middleground, the east side of the South Ferry crossing near Smith Cove and east of Cedar Point. Fluke fishing is fair in the Brickyard and off Truman Beach. The projected opening of the Orient Point Station is July 8. There have been good catches of bass at Old



Pete Avella, Sr., Pete Avella, Jr., Leo Smith, Sr., Leo Smith, Jr., with 13 weakfish up to 12 lbs. taken at the Steps. Photo courtesy of Port of Egypt Fishing Station.

Silas, drifting bucktails and pork rind at night. There's blackfish to 4 lbs. at Orient Lighthouse and there's still some flounders at the tip of Orient Point.

NEW SUFFOLK

Robert Brown and wife of Newark, New Jersey fished Middle Grounds with worms, clams and heavy on the chum and took 265 porgies up to 2½ lbs. The weakfish being taken are smaller in size, running from 3 to 5 lbs. They are being taken at buoy 28 on drifted sandworms. Bluefish from 2 to 3 lbs. are being taken in the South Race. Weakfish have been mixed in with these catches and trollers are doing better with Rag Mops and surgical tubes than the bucktailers and diamond jiggers.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Tackle Center reported plenty of nice big porgies near the motels to the east of Mattituck. Bluefish by buoy 5. This past Monday morning, the blues were off Keeny's Beach but wouldn't hit. Some fluke around Mattituck jetty. Bass fishing is poor along the beaches. Some porgies and blues in the bay which are keeping the porgies scattered around.

SAG HARBOR

Chris at **Bayview Fishing Station** tells us the porgy fishing is good at Gibsons with Sunday seeing Harry Mc Knight and two pals taking 119 fish from 1-1¾ lbs on worm and clam at both sides of the low. Ninety percent of the fish were on worms. Blues at S.Ferry on bucktails and umbrellas, fish from 3-12 lbs.

Specks Bait and Tackle tells us that Saturday's fishing was best with good porgy action at buoy 18 on sandworms. Boat traffic put Sunday's fishing down a little. Lots of blues around as evidenced by half bitten off eels intended for bass. Striped bass in

the inlet and at Ponquogue Bridge on live eels. An angler by the name of Joel bagged a 32 lb 2 oz bass on Saturday night on a live eel. Blues are thick outside the inlet on umbrellas and plugs from the beach on out and also inside the jetty for casters on tin and bucktails.

Bill Stoltz of Rocky Point with a 17 lb. 10 oz. striped bass taken on a Rebel popper east of Wading River. Photo courtesy of Rocky Point Fishing Stop.

North Shore Mid-Island

★ BEST BET ★

MIXED BAG

ROCKY POINT

Rocky Point Fishing Stop reports that bluefishing has been good when you can find them. The bluefish have been running from 4-7 lbs., and are being taken at buoy 5 on diamond jigs. Weakfish up to 10 lbs. are under these schools of blues. Porgies can be taken along the beaches from Tide's Beach to Wading River Beach. Bass fishing has not been hot, but some big fish in the 30 lb. class are being taken on eels and plugs east of Wading River.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station reports that porgies are being taken on clams and worms off of buoy 9 up to 2½ lbs. Blues and weaks are being taken at buoys 9 and 11 on Tri-Fin sand eel jigs and on trolled umbrellas. Blackfishing in the area is slowing down and fluke fishing has been picking up between buoys 11 and 9.

PORT JEFFERSON

The Port Jeff Ace reorts buckets of porgies on their 2 daily trips and that their 4 pm trip is truly fantastic with consistent late afternoon feeding frenzies with many humpbacks smashing the baits.

Betty W reportes porgy fishing remains steady during the day. There was a good showing of blackfish on Saturday. Sunday saw the bottom fishing slow down a bit. Porgies have been found to the West and East of Port Jeff. Capt. John asked us to tell you that the **Betty W** is chartered for Sat. July 1st.

Caraftis Fishing Station reported the bottom fishing was mostly blacks with a few porgies mixed in. There's blues and weaks early in the morning by buoys 9 and 11. Buoy 9 was the better bet for blues. Fluke are showing—it's slow—by Mt. Misery Shoal.

KINGS PARK

Bob at **Mae's Way Fishing Station** reports that the fishing on the weekend was picky at best. Several good catches were brought in, but the majority of anglers had slim pickings. On Sunday, the private boat Tiderunner found a hungry school of bluefish in 80 ft. of water off Kings Park and put 17 choppers in the fish box. They trolled umbrella lures on wire line. Also on Sunday, Sal and Sophie Bruno took a respectable catch of 20 big porgies and one-half dozen flounder and blackfish were mixed in. The action was off the Mansion on sandworms and clams. Mr. Smith and son of Kings Park had a decent catch of blackfish to 5 lbs. and flounder on sandworms off Short Beach.

LIF subscriber Joe Ferrari called to tell us that he murdered the bluefish last Tuesday night on his boat Three's Company, trolling umbrella rigs about two miles off Callahan's and Crab Meadow Beach in 50 ft. of water. Thirteen big bluefish up to 12 lbs. were boated.

HUNTINGTON

Capt. Don of the **Ever ready** called to say that litterally hundreds of fish were caught on his boat over the weekend. Flounders, blacks and mostly giant king mackerel which arrived in huge schools all over the Eatons Neck area. The summer porgy fishing will begin on Wed. July 5th when the **Ever Ready** will begin daily fishing operations except for Mondays. See ad for special programs, etc.

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle reports that Jim Reed took a 13 lb. 6 oz. weakfish fishing off Ocean Beach with a grape Jelly worm. John Munno took a 25 lb. striped bass on Friday night trolling worms in Cold Spring Harbor. Mark Dabule also took a 25 lb. bass in Cold Spring Harbor on Friday night. Acres of mackerel hit the area from Eaton's Neck to Lloyd's Point over the weekend and fishermen took good catches with anything they threw at them. A few blues and bass are being picked up in Cold Spring Harbor, Marshall Field and in Huntington Inlet. An occasional weakfish has been mixed in with these catches. Good porgy catches are being taken in Marshall Field and Eaton's Neck and the blackfishing in the area has been fair.

North Shore West End

★ BEST BET ★

MIXED BAG

BAYVILLE

Norm's Bait and Tackle reports good porgy fishing at the Center Island Reef, Lloyd's Neck and fair fishing in Oyster Bay Harbor. These fish are taking worms and clams. Blackfishermen can take a nice catch at the Center Island Reef and the Bayville Bridge. These fish are taking worms and clams. Flounder averaging 3/4 lbs. are being taken at Center Island on worms. On Saturday nice sized mackerel hit the beaches from one end to the other and were jumping on everything you threw at them.

CITY ISLAND

John's Gun and Tackle reports that bass fishing has been spotty in this area. A few bass from 20 to 40 lbs. are being taken from the Throgg's Neck area to Rye on chunk bait such as mackerel or bunker. These fish are being taken in the early morning, dusk and in the evening. Bottom fishing has been slow, but blackfish and flounder can still be taken. The Rye area produced some nice mackerel fishing over the weekend.

The Ebb Tide reports good flounder and a few blackfish with porgies starting, all on sandworms fishing Smithtown, Huntington and Lloyds. They also saw and caught mackerel, that seemed to remain in the sound in fairly strong numbers.

Jack's Tackle Shop reported blackfish were taken in decent numbers over the weekend. Not many porgies in the area. Mackerel were thick off Hart's Island as of last Saturday. A few blues hit trolled surgical tubes by Execution Light.

Here are some of the blackfish taken aboard the City Island party boat "Ebb Tide." Left to right: Al Cali, Jimmy Chow, and Lee Manzone with blackfish of 4½ , 8 and 5 lbs.

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